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Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Yumul resigns as IPI CEO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ray Naraja Yumul has resigned from his position as chief executive officer of the controversial Saipan exclusive casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Yumul

The IPI board of directors informed their employees and stakeholders yesterday that after serving a one-year term with IPI as CEO, Yumul resigned effective Tuesday, Feb. 1.

"We are grateful for the con-

See YUMUL on Page 4

» Casino Commission executive director Yeom says Yumul was never licensed as CEO of IPI

Travel bubble garners over 800 tourists in just 3 days

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI travel bubble agreement under the CNMI's Tourism Resumption Incentive Program, TRIP, has already brought in 800 tourists to the CNMI in

See TRAVEL on Page 4

406 new cases

» Guam logs 6 more COVID-related deaths

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 406 more individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI across two days, according to the Common-

See 406 on Page 4

NMC IMPRINT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, and NMC vice president Frankie Eliptico, right, hold copies of the film *Dry Nights* with the film's director, Brian Muña, center, during a visit on Feb. 1 to the UOG Press at the University of Guam. The film was co-directed by UOG Press managing editor Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero and based on the UOG Press book *Dry Nights* by Guam author Pep Borja. Northern Marianas College now has its own imprint under UOG Press to begin publishing works specific to the Northern Mariana Islands and written by NMI authors. Story in tomorrow's edition of *Saipan Tribune.*

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:22pm, Feb. 2, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 99.4%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,717
Fully Vaccinated:	36,545
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,321
Fully Vaccinated:	5,152
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,126

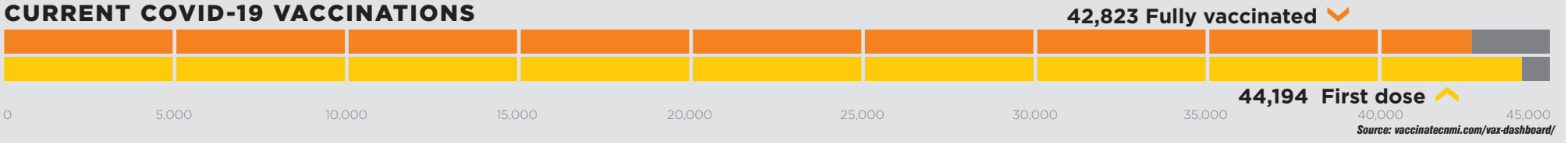
GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	33,018	770	33,788
Recovered	26,866	536	27,402
Active	5,320	770	6,090
Deaths	294	2	296

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,908	406*	5,314
Traced via Travel Screening	558	22	580
Traced via Community Screening	4,350	384	4,734
Deaths	23	0	23

*2/3=252; 2/2=154

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

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LOCAL
Shirley Duenas-Kapileo is named Mount Carmel School's 2022 Teacher of the Year.
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BUSINESS
The Zaabder Thai Snack Bar has changed its name to Zaabder Thai Restaurant.
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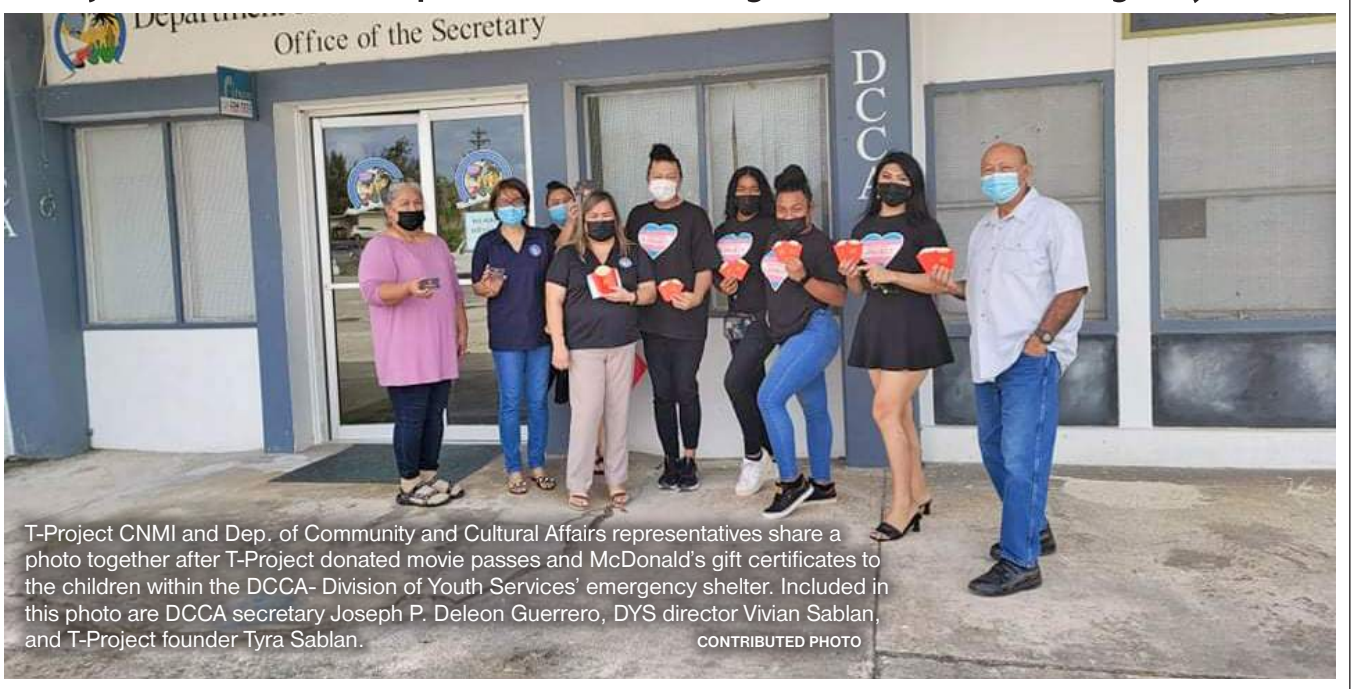
SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

T-Project donates movie passes, McDonald's gift cards to DYS emergency shelter



T-Project CNMI and Dep. of Community and Cultural Affairs representatives share a photo together after T-Project donated movie passes and McDonald's gift certificates to the children within the DCCA- Division of Youth Services' emergency shelter. Included in this photo are DCCA secretary Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, DYS director Vivian Sablan, and T-Project founder Tyra Sablan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Non-profit organization T-Project CNMI recently donated 12 movie passes and 12 McDonald's gift cards to the children temporarily staying at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services' emergency shelter.

DYS director Vivian Sablan said in an email last week that T-Project donated the passes and gift certificates on Jan. 19, thanks to the ongoing partnership between T-Project and DYS. Sablan said that T-Project "has worked alongside DYS in numerous community outreach events and is now working on furthering its partnership."

Currently, T-Project and DYS personnel are working together to assess DYS program forms and identify staff training to be inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community in the implementation and delivery of DYS' programs and services, said Sablan.

"We look forward to a continued partnership in providing equal opportunities to our children and families served," she added.

When reached for comments yesterday, T-Project founder Tyra Sablan spoke of the importance for programs to be inclusive of LGBTQ+ youth, saying that T-Project's partnership with DYS "only makes sense."

"LGBTQ+ youth show a higher risk of being maltreated, abused, etc. due to family rejection [and] bullying, and are [at a] higher risk of suicide, substance abuse, [and] high levels of depression. Our partnership with DCCA DYS for the sake of those youths and all youth in general only makes sense. …We are grateful to have leadership in the agency that is open, loving, and inclusive, and we look forward to the future of our collaboration," said Tyra Sablan.

Registration now open for Xavier high entrance exam

All current eighth graders in the CNMI who are interested in attending Xavier High School–Micronesia are encouraged to take the official entrance exam at 9am on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at the Maturana House of Prayer on Upper Navy Hill.

Registration is mandatory for all exam-takers, and will close at 12am on Sunday, Feb. 13. To register, visit https://forms.gle/iRG3ER-51heLUPoLd9

All registered individuals are encouraged to arrive at the exam site by 8:30am to sign in prior to taking the exam. A valid photo ID (e.g. school ID, state ID, or passport) and a $10 registration fee (cash only) will be required upon sign-in.

They are likewise encouraged to bring two sharpened No. 2 pencils, an eraser, and a calculator. The use of pens and mechanical pencils are prohibited, as well as devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, laptops, smartwatches, and tablets.

The exam will be timed and will contain two sections: English and math. Individuals taking the exam will have 90 minutes to complete each section. A brief intercession will be allotted between both sections. Individuals taking the exam will be prohibited from leaving the exam room during the exam.

The 3Ws (wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance) will be enforced on-site. Further exam rules and regulations will be communicated to exam-takers on-site prior to taking the exam. Non-compliance of exam rules and regulations, as well as COVID-19 protocols, will result in immediate dismissal.

The exam will be administered and proctored by volunteers from the Friends of Xavier-Marianas Pacific. For questions, comments, and/or concerns, contact FOX-MP at foxmp670@gmail.com.

For more information on Xavier High School–Micronesia, visit https://www.xaviermicronesia.org, or follow @XavierMicronesia on Facebook and/or Instagram. ***(PR)***

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Manglona to IPI: Work with gov't investigators on 'spilling beans'

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is urging Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to work with government investigators on its alleged plan to "spill the beans" regarding transactions and relationships with certain CNMI officials.

In a letter Tuesday addressed to then-IPI chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul, Manglona said that, being an advocate of transparency in government, they welcome any and all information IPI is able to provide with, especially about the Community Benefit Fund.

Yumul resigned as IPI CEO that same day, Tuesday.

Yumul had earlier stated that IPI is ready to provide information about political influence committed by local politicians to snag sweetheart contracts, land leases, and contributions from IPI.

Manglona said the CNMI as whole will benefit tremendously with the "beans" that IPI will provide.

The senator asked IPI to work in coordination with the appropriate government agencies with this information.

"We are being pressured by members of the public to do something about the numerous allegations of misuse of public funds and corruption in our government," he said.

Manglona said IPI's information provided to government investigators will only result in improved government transparency and greater public confidence in the government's process of coming up with a recommendation for the casino project that are justifiable and, more importantly, will be of benefit to the people of the CNMI.

Under the casino license agreement, IPI is supposed to contribute annually to the CNMI $20 million, called a Community Benefit Fund, that will be used for community benefit programs.

Manglona said the Community Benefit Fund monies are not deposited into the General Fund and, pursuant to Section 16 of the casino license agreement, the governor has control over the use of the funds as his consultation is required for the disbursement of any money to the community benefit programs.

He said the intended uses of the Community Benefit Fund monies are for programs such as education, scholarships, infrastructure, health care, and employee retirement benefits.

Since the issuance of IPI's exclusive casino license, Manglona has been requesting for an audit on the use and expenditures of the Community Benefit Fund or an official report on disbursement, if any.

The senator said that, pursuant to the casino license agreement, IPI should have available or deposited in the Community Benefit Fund a total of $60 million as of Oct. 1, 2020, which includes the 2018, 2019, and 2020 contributions.

"To date, we are informed that only approximately $3 million was paid by IPI, leaving an unpaid balance of $57 million," he said.

Manglona said they have not received any information or report from IPI, the governor, or the Office of Public Auditor regarding the exact amount and all disbursement of funds that have been paid to the Community Benefit Fund. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

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2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 69,682 MILES — STK: 21M012A — KBB: $15,515
2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 38,500 MILES — STK:21D019C — KBB: $19,253
2019 HYUNDAI ELANTRA TURBO — SOLD — SALE PRICE $21,995 — 30,501 MILES — STK: 19P371 — KBB: $23,606
2017 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD — SOLD — SALE PRICE $31,995 — 22,500 MILES — STK: 17P388 — KBB: $32,173
2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 5,800 MILES — STK: 18HS1011 — KBB: $14,778
2020 HYUNDAI VENUE — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 8,383 MILES — STK: 21D082A — KBB: $21,071
2018 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT — SALE PRICE $22,995 — 13,002 MILES — STK:22M002A — KBB: $22,440
2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON GLS AWD — SALE PRICE $26,995 — 32,501 MILES — STK: 22M017A — KBB: $27,844
2017 KIA SPORTAGE EX — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 51,470 MILES — STK: 17P372 — KBB: $23,611
2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 62,261 MILES — STK: 17P365 — KBB: $19,752
2017 NISSAN FRONTIER 4WD — SALE PRICE $23,995 — 36,700 MILES — STK:22H116A — KBB: $25,840
2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD — SALE PRICE $33,995 — 15,260 MILES — STK: 18P344 — KBB: $34,836
2020 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 18,418 MILES — STK:20R277 — KBB: $16,607
2016 TOYOTA COROLLA — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 20,097 MILES — STK: 16P378
2018 TOYOTA CAMRY LE — SALE PRICE $24,995 — 44,952 MILES — STK: 19P379A — KBB: $25,027
2018 JEEP WRANGLER 4WD — SOLD — SALE PRICE $54,995 — 26,205 MILES — STK: 18P345
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 8,692 MILES — STK: 8HS889 — KBB: $19,496
2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 52,907 MILES — STK:16P380 — KBB: $20,065

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

A public notice is hereby given that Dae Hae Incorporation, with the principal address of P.O. Box 503979, Gatbo Avenue, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, has decided to discontinue its business and dissolve permanently.

Torres admin highlights NMI infra plans in DC talks

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig delivered remarks on behalf of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior Interagency Group on Insular Affairs in Washington, D.C.

With a focus on the state of infrastructure in the CNMI, Torres discussed in his testimonies how the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as the American Rescue Plan Act, "provide the opportunity to address many of the longstanding concerns of the CNMI that are specific to our ability to better manage our economic development and make a real investment in the infrastructure of the CNMI and the lives of its people."

Atalig shared the CNMI's plans to utilize the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to "invest in critical infrastructure and address resource needs to ensure that our communities can grow while withstanding current and future weather and climate related challenges with minimal physical damage or disruption to communities."

While Torres acknowledges the challenges that several major natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and labor issues have had on the CNMI's economy and progress in revitalizing our infrastructure, in his written testimonies he also emphasizes his "priorities on infrastructure development, destination enhancement, the diversification of our economy, natural disaster preparation and recovery, the mitigation of the ongoing global pandemic, and the improvements to core governmental services" that include providing our communities with the most essential of resources such as adequate and modern power generation, 24/7 palatable drinking water services, the implementation of a comprehensive waste and wastewater management system, "complete street" designs that incorporate bike lanes, sidewalks, and appropriate lighting and landscaping, and accessible public transportation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Screengrab shows Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig delivering remarks to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior Interagency Group on Insular Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, Torres requested for the Senate committee's partnership in "seeking a permanent allotment of 3,000 CW-1 permits to support construction activities that are inclusive of those unrelated to presidentially-declared disasters, during the transition period as a means to deploy funding to support critical infrastructure projects and provide for an additional means to support employment across various sectors of the economy."

Torres' full written testimonies to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior IGIA are available to read at: https://governor.gov.mp/news/written-testimony-from-governor-ralph-dlg-torres-for-the-2022-senate-committee-on-energy-and-natural-resources-hearing/ and https://governor.gov.mp/news/written-testimony-from-governor-ralph-dlg-torres-for-the-interagency-group-on-insular-affairs-igia-2022-senior-plenary-meeting/. ***(PR)***

YUMUL

From Page 1

tributions he had made during his tenure and we wish him the best in his future endeavors," said the IPI board in a memorandum.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Yumul.

At the Commonwealth Casino Commission's monthly board meeting last Thursday, Yumul lost his temper about the removal of the tower cranes at IPI's casino/resort project site in western Garapan, telling CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero that he can "go to hell" in reaction to a comment the chairman made about the cranes.

Yumul, however, later apologized to the board.

Yumul later told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after the meeting that so many local politicians benefitted from IPI and now he's cleaning up their mess. He demanded that CCC look into political influence committed by local politicians to coerce from IPI sweetheart contracts, land leases, and "interesting contributions."

"Yes, I do know exactly what the Federal Bureau of Investigation had confiscated," said Yumul without elaborating it.

In November 2019, the FBI executed several search warrants on Saipan, including the office of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. As of yesterday, no one has been charged in connection with those searches.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry yesterday, CCC executive director Andrew Yeom said the CCC never granted IPI's application for Yumul to be its CEO.

Yeom said they allowed Yumul to speak during last Thursday's board meeting about IPI's tower cranes removal as a member of the public. He said Yumul "over-exercised" that option to talk "as if he is the licensed CEO of IPI," which was not the case.

The executive director said Yumul clearly crossed his boundaries during the meeting and in fact later apologized to the board.

"He was never licensed as a CEO and still is not," Yeom said.

Yumul, who is a former Saipan senator, accepted the position of CEO of IPI in January 2021. He then stated that he is considering the job because he wants the casino industry to succeed and resolve the many issues that IPI is facing.

TRAVEL

From Page 1

just three days since all South Korean airlines resumed regular flight services to the CNMI.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo, from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2, over 800 tourists have come to visit the CNMI under the travel bubble, thanks to the resumption of regular scheduled flights from South Korea.

Since Jan. 29, a total of seven flights have been made to the CNMI by Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'way Air, Iakopo said. Together, all three carriers are able to bring in approximately 370 tourists from Incheon each time they fly in.

Although the schedule of flights may vary, the CNMI receives incoming flights from Incheon every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Currently, because all tourists coming in are required to be vaccinated, tourists under the travel bubble program are welcome to stay at any hotel of their choice as long as they adhere to COVID-19 entry protocols.

Last week, both T'way Air and Jeju Air began resumed providing Incheon-based flights again after temporarily suspending their flights in early January.

In addition, the CNMI is also seeing travelers from Busan, thanks to the current charter in place with Air Busan, which is being done in partnership with Micronesia Resort Inc., the operator of Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort Saipan.

The first flight arrived on Jan. 23, and the second flight came in on Jan. 30. There will also be four Air Busan charters flying into the CNMI on Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 under this agreement.

406

From Page 1

wealth Healthcare Corp.

CHCC first reported on Tuesday night 154 new cases that were all identified on Monday, Jan. 31. This was followed by 252 additional cases that were all confirmed positive on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

These combined 406 cases bring the CNMI total to 5,314 cases since March 26, 2020.

Separately, the Joint Information Center in Guam reported four more COVID-19-related deaths on Tuesday and then two more yesterday.

In a Feb. 1 news release, CHCC reported that, of the 154 new cases, 60 were identified through contact tracing, 74 through community testing, and 19 through travel testing. Of the 154, two cases were identified on Rota.

Separately, of the 252 cases identified on Feb. 1, a total of 180 identified via contact tracing, 66 via community testing, and six via travel testing . One of these cases was identified on Tinian and 16 on Rota.

All these individuals have been isolated and are actively monitored, CHCC assured.

As of Feb. 2, CHCC reported that there are nine individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: five unvaccinated, three vaccinated, and one partially vaccinated. Two have already been discharged.

Of the CNMI's 5,314 total cases since March 2020, as of Jan. 31, 2022 there have been 4,226 total recovered cases, 1,065 total active cases, and 23 total COVID-19-related deaths.

CHCC reported that 103 total COVID-19 vaccines were administered on Feb. 1, bringing the CNMI's vaccination rate to 99.3%. As of yesterday, this was now at 99.4%. In the CNMI, registering for vaccinations can be done through www.vaccinatecnmi.com.

CHCC reported that a total of 1,161 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Jan. 31. Registering for community-based testing in the CNMI can be done through http://covidtesting.chcc.health.

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported Tuesday the island's 291st, 292nd, 293rd, and 294th COVID-19-related deaths, followed by the 295th and 296th deaths reported yesterday.

The 291st was an 81-year-old vaccinated male with underlying health conditions. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Jan. 21 and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City on Jan. 21.

The 292nd was an 85-year-old vaccinated male with underlying health conditions. He tested positive on Jan. 25 and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Jan. 31.

The 293rd was a 68-year-old unvaccinated female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Jan. 31 and was pronounced dead on arrival at GMH on Jan. 31.

The 294th was a 98-year-old vaccinated male who tested positive on Jan. 31. He was pronounced dead on arrival in the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on Jan. 31.

The 295th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the GRMC on Jan. 31, 2022. The patient was a 73-year-old female, unvaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Jan. 28, 2022.

The 296th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the GMH on Feb. 1, 2022. The patient was a 69-year-old male, unvaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Feb. 1, 2022.

In both JIC news releases, acting Guam governor Joshua Tenorio gave his condolences to the families of the six. Tenorio also asked the Guam community to be proactive and monitor the health of your loved ones, especially those who are elderly or sick.

"Gov. Lou [Leon Guerrero], first gentleman Jeff [Cook], and I carry the sadness and sorrow along with their families. Losses like these are so great in our small community. Help your family members by monitoring their health, especially those who are elderly or sick. Please do not wait to get treatment or visit your doctor if you are feeling sick," he said in the first JIC news release.

In yesterday's news release, he said: "Once again we are faced with adversities from this pandemic where losses are always one too many. We have come out of this stronger before and I am confident our island can do it again."

Virus enters Tonga along with disaster aid, lockdown planned

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Tonga will enter a lockdown Wednesday evening after finding coronavirus infections in two port workers helping distribute aid arriving in the Pacific nation after a volcanic eruption and tsunami.

The urgent announcement by Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni appeared to confirm fears that accepting the aid following the disaster last month could usher in a second disaster by bringing COVID-19 into a nation that had been virus-free.

The volcanic eruption and tsunami last month tainted drinking water, severed communications and left dozens homeless. Three people died in Tonga and two in Peru after the tsunami crossed the ocean.

Ships and planes from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Britain and China have been delivering aid. Those nations had promised to drop off their supplies of fresh water and medicine without coming into contact with anybody on the ground in Tonga, which usually requires incoming travelers to spend three weeks in quarantine.

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Saipan municipal council honors Masako Ono

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council presented Masako Ono last Tuesday with a commemorative resolution recognizing and thanking her for her "work and care for the Saipan community during their time of need during this COVID pandemic."

Ono, who is the wife of Kazuhiko Ono, who heads the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan, was presented with a framed copy of the commemorative resolution at the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku. The council presented Ono with yesterday. Present for the handoff were municipal council chairwoman Ana Demapan-Castro, council secretary Daniel I. Aquino, consul Kazuhiko Ono, and lawmaker Rep. Ed Propst (D-Saipan).

The resolution states that Masako Ono, who arrived on Saipan on May, 8, 2019, has been very involved in the community since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It recognized her support of the Office of Aging's Man'Amko Center by "joining them in song, art, and in the donation of fruit, rice, and other packaged food to the center."

JOSHUA SANTOS

Masako Ono, third from left, shares a picture with 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council and her husband, Japanese Consul Kazuhiko Ono, at the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku last Tueday after the council signed a commemorative resolution recognizing and thanking Ono for her "work and care for the Saipan community during their time of need during this COVID pandemic."

Also according to the resolution, Masako Ono volunteered through the Tzu Chi Charity Foundation to help the organization distribute face coverings to various churches, Saipan's elderly, the Maturana House of Prayer, "the Disabled Center, Library, CHC Volunteers Association, schools, [NMTech], etc." In total, 51,850 face coverings were distributed through this effort.

On Nov. 28, 2020, with the help of the Friends of CWI Group, Masako Ono distributed care packages to 138 individuals and families "that were affected by the pandemic and were furloughed from their jobs."

In another instance, 151 care packages were distributed to 151 children "at the Disabled Kids Center."

In her brief remarks yesterday, Masako Ono extended her gratitude to the council for the recognition and said that she and Kazuhiko Ono will be transferred to a consul station in Taiwan soon. "I'm very grateful and honored to receive this gift of appreciation," she said in a later interview. She added that it was unexpected, but she is very happy to have received it.

Propst thanked Masako Ono and Kazuhiko Ono for "all their wonderful contributions to our community."

"They really made [Saipan] their home. We're going to miss them tremendously, [we] appreciate everything that they do, and I wish them the very best in their future endeavors," he said.

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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2022

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** $1,514,000.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $970,416.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $463,940.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $79,644.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2022.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

You may access the CPD applications on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by selecting the "Public Notice/Announcement" menu tab, beginning February 03, 2022.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Applicants); NMC Campus, Building A (Tinian Applicants); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Applicants) by ***May 04, 2022, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after May 04, 2022, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

March 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
March 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
March 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided.

Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair**, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

MCS announces Teacher and Support Staff of the Year

Shirley Duenas-Kapileo has been named as Mount Carmel School's 2022 Teacher of the Year, while Kimberly Tentia was selected as the Support Staff of the Year.

The announcement of their selection came as Mount Carmel School participated in the national celebration of Catholic Schools Week last Tuesday, which had the theme "Celebrating Our Faculty and Staff."

Besides Duena-Kapileo and Tentia, the school also awarded both Julian Greening and Jener A. Pineda as finalists for Teacher of the Year, despite being new to the school's celebration.

The faculty and staff eligible for the awards were scored based on their performance, classroom observations, and involvement in extracurricular activities during the past year.

Tentia has worked at Mount Carmel School for five years and assists homeroom instructors in kindergarten through Grade 6. Beyond her duties as a teacher aide, Tentia has also assisted in organization projects throughout the summer and is regarded as a kind and hardworking professional among her colleagues.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley Ann C. Duenas-Kapileo is awarded Mount Carmel School's 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kimberly Tentia is awarded Mount Carmel School's 2021-2022 Support Staff of the Year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julian Greening is recognized as a finalist for Mount Carmel School's 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jener A. Pineda is recognized as a finalist for Mount Carmel School's 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year.

"I feel overwhelmed," said Tentia. "I was not expecting this award but I am grateful to our MCS family for giving me this opportunity and especially the Lord for guiding me through. I would also like to thank my parents, colleagues, mentors, and students for their support these last five years. I have grown so much and will continue to do my best as an educator."

Award finalist Greening, who has been employed at Mount Carmel School since 2017, is the only band instructor at Mount Carmel School.

During all his years at MCS, Greening regards teaching music and working with other musicians as his passion. Throughout his time at Mount Carmel School, Greening is credited with the successful development of Mount Carmel School's Band Program. Through his leadership, Greening has taught MCS students how to play several instruments and has helped connect MCS musicians with other local musicians on island. Greening was recently recognized by the National Band Association, presenting him with a "Citation of Excellence" in October 2021.

The second finalist, Pineda, brings over 20 years of educational experience. While this is Pineda's third year at Mount Carmel School, he has served in many capacities that continue to help the school fulfill its mission—"to educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

In just three years, Pineda has served in many capacities for the school, not just as a teacher but also in the various extracurriculars the school offers. His hard work includes serving as the campus minister, chairperson for the Catholic Schools Week vocations committee, co-chairperson of the Faith Learning Community, the MCS Choir adviser, Knights of the Altar adviser, vocal director for the school's production of *The Sound of Music*, the MCS Cross Country coach, the MCS Athletics Team coach, and MCS Basketball Junior Varsity coach. "I would like to thank our Almighty God who is the source of my strength, my wife Franni, and my three kids for their unconditional love and support, the leadership team headed by Ms. Taimanao for their confidence and support, my colleagues, and of course our students who always inspire me to work harder," said Pineda.

"I am deeply honored and blessed to receive this prestigious award. It is a proud moment of my professional career. This award will help me to remain humble, focused, and dedicated to my craft. Thank you very much and to God be the glory," he added.

This year's Teacher of the Year, Duenas-Kapileo, has been employed at Mount Carmel School for 10 years but served in the Public School System for 12, bringing over 20 years of educational experience.

Following her father's footsteps, Duenas-Kapileo regards teaching as her passion and finds her work challenging and rewarding stating, "Teaching is one of the hardest jobs in the world. Be flexible and find balance. Remember, you're making a difference in the lives of children so make it count."

When asked about receiving the Teacher of the Year award, Duenas-Kapileo said, "I'm ecstatic and I'm still letting it sink in. There are so many strong and hardworking teachers here at MCS and they deserve to be recognized too. For now, I would like to thank my family for picking up the pieces when I fall apart and keeping it real with me. My MCS family for making sure my feet are on the ground and focused, and finally, my students for all the laughs and challenges we face together. Thank you all!"

Acting Mount Carmel School's president Francis Taimanao commends all the awardees and employees for their commitment and dedication despite the trials the school has faced. "I have worked with these individuals as colleagues and recently as their supervisor and have gotten to know them all to be dedicated, committed, and dynamic professionals who are always willing to improve. We congratulate all Mount Carmel School faculty and staff for another outstanding year of faith, excellence, and service."

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The year 2022 marks the 48th year for the national organization to recognize the importance of Catholic education and all the efforts of its stakeholders at each Catholic institution. Mount Carmel School has participated in this celebration since 1995, making this the school's 27th year to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. ***(PR)***

Emergency water service interruption today

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, Feb. 3, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Lower Dandan, Airport Road, portions of Kannat Tabla, As Lito, portion of As Perdido, and Koblerville (from Saint Jude Catholic Church to ABCD Market and Tottotville).

The emergency water service interruption is due to the isolation of the 6-inch transmission waterline for water operators to perform two emergency leak repairs located on Airport Road near the National Rental. Water services to affected areas will resume soon after. Allow for one to two hours for the system pressure to stabilize.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution or take alternative routes as the northbound lane will be closed for the duration of the leak repair.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationf). ***(PR)***

'We have not seen long COVID'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since the community outbreak of COVID-19 that started last October, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has not seen what's being called "long COVID," which means patients suffering from the after-effects of the infection long after they are first infected.

"We have not seen long COVID, although it has only been three months since our outbreak," said CHCC chief medical officer Dr. John Tudela, responding to an inquiry by Saipan Tribune yesterday. "Over time with more cases, [long COVID] may be more apparent as more people suffer with lingering symptoms for six months to one year later."

Also known as long-haul COVID, post-acute COVID-19, long-term effects of COVID, or chronic COVID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines "post-COVID conditions" as a "wide range of new, returning, or ongoing health problems people can experience four or more weeks after first being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19."

CDC also said that even those who did not have COVID-19 symptoms in the days or weeks after they were infected can have "post-COVID conditions."

Information about long COVID can be found on the CDC website at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects/index.html.

Tudela also said yesterday that the CNMI had one case of MIS-C, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children. Tudela said that MIS-C is "kind of a delayed onset reaction to COVID-19 infection in children," and described this as a rare occurrence. "We had only one so far and it is rare," he said.

Last month, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC reported that they confirmed the CNMI's first case of MIS-C in a "COVID-19 Update" published on Jan. 12.

It was reported that MIS-C is a "rare but serious condition associated with COVID-19, in which different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs, and can affect children or adults."

The patient tested positive for COVID-19 in December 2021 and reported symptoms in January 2022, said CHCC.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Hey, politicians, if you make a rule you've got to follow it too

Widespread anger over Gov. Gavin Newsom's maskless night out at the French Laundry in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic should have been a lesson absorbed by politicians throughout California: People expect government officials to follow the rules they make.

Really, it's nothing new that elected officials are held to a higher standard. After all, they are making decisions that affect our lives and livelihoods. But the feeling has become heightened during the pandemic, as officials at every level of government asked people to make personal sacrifices to control the spread of the virus, yet seemed to have a hard time doing the same.

So there was understandable outrage when Newsom, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and San Francisco Mayor London Breed were photographed without masks during Sunday's NFC championship game at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. The three Democrats have championed some of the nation's most restrictive COVID-19 mitigation measures—good rules that have undoubtedly saved lives. Among those state and local rules are requirements that spectators mask up at events with large crowds, such as the football game—except when "actively eating or drinking."

Yet, in many photos taken during Sunday's game, Newsom, Garcetti and Breed were seen posing with NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson and other VIPs without a mask.

Newsom and Garcetti say they removed their masks only for photos, which is impossible to verify. And we have to ask, in all seriousness, what were they thinking?

Surely they knew that these images would strike Californians as hypocritical and make them question whether they should stop wearing masks themselves. The images are already being used in the debate, with Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger pointing them out to make the case for scrapping mask rules—a call that may grow louder.

Newsom was unapologetic during a news conference Monday. "I was trying to be gracious and took the mask off for a brief second."

He stopped short of calling it a mistake, saying half the word ("I made a mis—") before refining his message. His first inclination was correct. It was a mistake to take off his mask at the game. Perhaps not as damaging as his dinner at the French Laundry (which very likely factored into the qualification of a recall the following year), but still harmful to his credibility and the efforts of public health officials to get people to observe infection control measures.

Garcetti apparently made the same miscalculation. His spokesperson, Alex Comisar, told an editorial writer that the mayor "was wearing the mask the entire time and took

See POLITICIANS on Next Page

Trying to coerce the unvaccinated to submit to medical intervention threatens everyone's rights

By KATHERINE DRABIAK
Chicago Tribune

Katherine Drabiak is a professor of public health law, health law and medical ethics at the University of South Florida.

A recent Rasmussen Reports poll revealed a significant percentage of the public agrees with punitive actions for people who decline COVID-19 vaccines, such as fines, confinement or imprisonment. This mindset reflects a power strategy designed to chip away at the rule of law and spur divisiveness among the public.

Based on the poll, this strategy has successfully—and deeply—influenced public opinion. Viewing people as inherently dangerous based on their status rather than their actions poses grave risks to everyone's human rights.

According to the poll: 59% of Democratic voters would favor a government policy requiring that citizens remain confined to their homes at all times, except for emergencies, if they decline a COVID-19 vaccine. Forty-five percent of Democratic voters favored removing people from their homes to reside in a designated "facility" if they decline the vaccination.

Today, many progressives view aggressive mitigation policies as a smart hedge against COVID-19. Notably, allegiance to this strategy would have been labeled conservative during influenza and Ebola pandemic concerns. In fact, in reaction to the rise of a deadly strain of avian flu in 2008, law professors writing for the American Civil Liberties Union explicitly cautioned against an expansive quarantine, coercive medical interventions and treatment of people as a threat.

Quarantine law attempts to balance restricting a person's movement and liberty with protecting society from that person potentially spreading a dangerous disease. By definition, quarantine applies only to deadly or very serious communicable diseases, traditionally including diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome, better known as SARS; Ebola; or tuberculosis. It applies only to people with a known exposure, such as all people in one school or one ship, not an entire state or class of people.

Quarantine lasts only for the period of disease incubation, not for months on end. Importantly, quarantine is not designed as a punitive measure, but rather a method for monitoring and facilitating agreed-upon medical care.

This poll proposition is not a quarantine, but a penalty designed to coerce people to submit to medical intervention.

Broadly closing businesses, schools and places of worship and restricting travel did not merely revise the name for quarantine, but overlooked well-settled principles behind it. Health officials and policymakers exerted power over all businesses, all schools and all people under the presumption that everyone could possibly be exposed or acting as potential asymptomatic carriers of the virus.

This dismantled the law's delicate balance: To exert control over a person or place exposed to communicable disease requires narrow precision, not attenuated or distant possibilities. These requirements exist as a built-in mechanism to balance the important coexisting rights at stake.

The constraints imposed by stay-at-home orders and theoretical poll scenarios are not merely inconveniences, but also contravene human rights law and constitutional law. This encompasses a variety of rights, such as the right to go to work and earn a living; the right to preserve one's business and property; the right to congregate in groups to socialize, protest or worship; the right to travel; and the right to make one's own medical decisions.

Importantly, these are naturally existing rights. They are not granted by the government but must be shielded from governmental attempts to infringe upon them.

World leaders and media commentators have expressed animosity toward people based on vaccine status, with calls to condemn and exclude them from public spaces such as workplaces, restaurants, and theaters. For the majority of people who complied with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations and received the COVID-19 vaccine, following this directive as a prerequisite to participate in work and social activities likely seems reasonable and imbued with good intentions.

These statements displace fear of the virus and a yearning to return to normalcy with a divisive call to view other people who resist compliance as a menace or impediment.

But what happens if those in power mandate compliance with another directive or medical intervention with which people do not agree?

During the height of anti-communism in the 1960s, the Supreme Court opined that engaging in cultural, social and political activities constitutes the "very essence of our free society." The Supreme Court warned that curtailing those rights based on the proposition that a person could be dangerous can lead to abhorrent concentration of state power in totalitarian regimes that secure power by ticketing citizens and demanding identification papers.

Public health officials and government leaders can recommend and endorse medical interventions. In times of crisis or public health emergencies, people still retain the right to consent or refuse medical interventions, even when public health professionals declare that the intervention is necessary and beneficial.

We must vehemently resist the reclassification of certain people as presumptively dangerous based on their status alone. Cultivating suspicion and shaming people based on their status rather than conduct constitute a recipe for hostility, human rights abuse and erosion of the rule of law.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An expert just called the end of the pandemic. Why is nobody celebrating?

By DANNY WESTNEAT
The Seattle Times

Danny Westneat's is a columnist for the Seattle Times. *Reach him at 206-464-2086 or dwestneat@seattletimes.com.*

When officials announced that the Spanish flu pandemic was on the wane in Seattle back in 1918, people poured into the streets in celebration.

It happened to coincide with the end of World War I, giving double cause for joy. But the demise of the disease was a major part of the revelry.

"The Flu Ban is Lifted!" trumpeted a clothing store ad in the Seattle Daily Times, in November 1918, inviting everyone to come back downtown after weeks of lockdowns and quarantines.

"Seattle Now Unmuzzled" read a headline, above an article on how the public had "thrown its masks in the stove, piled the breakfast dishes in the sink and hit for town on the first available street car."

"The influenza masks were forgotten," the Times reported, "except that they were used instead to be waved from windows and doorways by cheering clerks."

Now that's how to end a pandemic. Send it out in a blaze, or a mass doffing of the mask.

The hitch, as we now know, is the pandemic hadn't really ended. Within a few months, Seattle had reinstituted a quarantine, locking more than 1,000 stricken residents inside their own homes, during a new wave of the Spanish flu.

I'm recalling all this because the other day, a top health official in Seattle said what we've been pining to hear during this two-year slog: That the great coronavirus pandemic is ending.

Christopher Murray, head of the influential disease-modeling Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, said the virus is still circulating at high rates for now. But in a matter of a few weeks, it will be Seattle Unmuzzled once again—and for good this time.

"This is a watershed for the pandemic," Murray said. "The era of extraordinary governmental and societal interventions to control COVID-19 is essentially coming to an end. The pandemic, in the sense of that societal response, is over."

Over is a mighty strong and alluring word. Murray argued the vaccines and the rapid spread of the omicron variant are combining to end "the emergency crisis" period of the pandemic. The coronavirus will still circulate, but as a more manageable disease. It means, he said, that future government mandates to control its spread will be unnecessary.

These remarks were reported on TV news in Seattle, but passed without much comment, and did not draw all that much attention nationally. Certainly nobody burned their masks or danced in the streets.

Is it because we don't believe it? Last summer, many people, from me on up to the president, had premature "Mission Accomplished" moments. So some hesitancy would be understandable.

Or is it that society has already psychologically moved on? I've heard multiple people say lately: "I'm done with COVID." Meaning, I think, that the meteoric omicron makes it all uncontainable anyway, so beyond getting vaxxed, what more can you do?

How will our pandemic end? Will we even know it when we see it?

"This framing that the pandemic is ending is really unfortunate," said Jeff Duchin, the chief health officer for Seattle and King County, and also affiliated with the UW, when I asked him about the predictions.

First, he argues, hospitals are slammed to the brink of rationing care and nearly 2,500 people are dying per day nationally—an alarming 10 to 20 times the typical death rate of the seasonal flu. So by all measures we're in the thick of a major ongoing crisis.

Second, the thing that makes pandemics so challenging, as we all ought to know by now, is that they feature a novel, evolving pathogen.

"It's by its nature unpredictable," Duchin said. "We've just seen that evolving unpredictability, twice, since last summer"—the delta and omicron waves, which combined have killed nearly 300,000 more Americans.

"The key is having some humility about it. There's no reason to think another variant like that can't happen again."

One Murray prediction—which Duchin said he agrees with—is that we're about to go into a period similar to last summer, where COVID transmission recedes to relative lows. It likely means that masking and other public health restrictions could be dropped (again, like they were last summer). But after that?

"To say that we know that we're no longer going to need any of the strategies to control COVID in the future, such as masking or social distancing or vax verifications, it's counterproductive, and it's not true," Duchin warned.

It's maybe like 1918. They thought they were done with it, too. They wanted to be done so badly that they pushed ahead as if it were so.

Medical historians say that's typically how past pandemics have "ended"—murkily, with some gradual but mass cultural or psychological shift that maybe doesn't have all that much to do with scientific reality.

Past pandemics have tended to morph, through societal fatigue or amnesia, into becoming "someone else's problem," two historians, from Johns Hopkins and Exeter University, write in an essay "How Pandemics End."

"The social epidemic does not necessarily end when biological transmission has ended, or even peaked, but rather when, in the attention of the general public and in the judgment of certain media and political elites who shape that attention, the disease ceases to be newsworthy."

After two years of dashboards and epidemiological curves and political wars about everything from masks to deaths, this, amazingly, may turn out to be what matters at the end. Is coronavirus newsworthy anymore?

Here within this very column, we have two experts, one who says the end of the crisis is near, and the other not so fast. I don't know who's right—even the latter said he desperately hopes it's the former.

But what's powerful, and not being talked about all that much, is that the scientific debate, or even the real-world behavior of the virus, may not dictate the pandemic's end.

What matters is how much disease and death we're willing to accept as our new normal—concentrated though it may be among those who still, maddeningly, won't get vaccinated.

It's a bit like the mass shooting phenomenon: The real end of the pandemic may be marked by the moment we collectively choose we just can't do it anymore, and we look away.

POLITICIANS

From Page 8

it off for a few photos." Garcetti was holding a mask in the photo Johnson posted on Twitter.

Two years into this nightmarish pandemic, we are all tired of covering our faces. Images from the game Sunday showed very few fans wearing masks. But Newsom and Garcetti are among the government leaders saying that masks are necessary in crowded settings. If they expect people to follow the rule, they must show that they're following it too.

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Neil Young can't persuade Spotify to stop COVID misinformation

By ZACK O'MALLEY GREENBURG
Los Angeles Times

Zack O'Malley Greenburg, author of the Jay-Z biography Empire State of Mind *and formerly senior editor of media and entertainment at Forbes, writes about the business of music on Substack.*

Last week, Neil Young issued an ultimatum to Spotify after growing frustrated with podcast king Joe Rogan spreading COVID-19 misinformation on the platform. "They can have Rogan or Young," he declared. "Not both."

Spotify chose Rogan; a firestorm ensued. Joni Mitchell and some other musicians ditched the service, while author Brené Brown paused her Spotify-exclusive podcast. Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, and Prince Harry, who have a big Spotify deal, voiced "concerns." The company's stock has shed billions in value over the past week, prompting founder Daniel Ek to respond Sunday by publishing a set of platform rules and promising to add content advisories.

But the message was clear: whether to defend free speech or secure profits, Spotify was standing by Rogan. And some are wondering whether the episode is about to set off a mass exodus of musicians, perhaps enough to endanger Spotify's enviable position atop the streaming heap.

It won't, and here's why.

To begin, as admirable as it was for Young to put principles ahead of profits, he's risking less than many of his peers would be. The "Heart of Gold" singer has never really needed Spotify, earning just 10% of his income from the service.

Young stood to gain even less from Spotify after selling half of his music catalog en route to a career-best $78 million in earnings last year (ranking him No. 11 on my list of the world's highest-paid musicians). Merck Mercuriadis, the guy who bought Young's copyrights, is standing by him. So is Warner Music Group, home to his records.

Most other musicians are still hurting from the lack of touring opportunities amid the pandemic—which, ironically, would almost certainly be over sooner without misinformation spread by the Rogans of the world. For those musicians, it's hard to give up one of the few remaining sources of income. That's especially true for the acts with younger followings, whom Spotify would be more stung by losing. Young's audience of lefty boomers is not a key demographic for the streaming business.

Spotify doesn't need Young, but it does need Rogan. The company reportedly paid more than $100 million to bring him aboard; at the time, Rogan claimed he was clocking 190 million downloads a month. He's the centerpiece of Spotify's yearslong push to become the Netflix of audio.

Unlike recorded music, which is encumbered by a byzantine morass of agreements among singers, songwriters, producers, record labels and copyright holders, podcasts are generally simpler and more profitable. In most cases, big names get a flat fee and that's that—no pesky royalties to pay out, no renegotiations. The episodes can live on a platform in perpetuity and are quite popular with advertisers, generating $1 billion and counting in U.S. ad revenue annually.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, Spotify doesn't want to slide down the slippery slope of booting Rogan and his ilk when there are so many others who are equally problematic. Like so many other major platforms (including Substack, where I write), the company defends its party line with a focus on protecting free speech. But the complexity and cost of moderating content can't be overstated. To take responsibility for content would cut deeply into profits, probably driving many platforms out of business.

Musicians face a similar slippery slope. Upon leaving Spotify over COVID-19 misinformation concerns, they'd have to confront another reality: The social networks that drive so much of their exposure are also havens for pandemic misinformation.

Is there a tipping point for Spotify, a critical mass of artists whose objections would make the company seriously consider dumping Rogan? Well, we might be having a different conversation if we were talking Drake and Taylor Swift—both of whom boast more than 50 million monthly listeners—instead of Young and Mitchell, who generate a fraction of the spins.

Perhaps even more disruptive would be an entire record label pulling its roster, a move that would endanger Spotify's core proposition of offering a nearly unlimited buffet of music to subscribers.

But it's very difficult to imagine either of those scenarios unfolding, because of the financial implications.

By far the most likely outcome: Spotify takes a hit in the short term but keeps its perch atop the streaming heap. For Young, the episode burnishes an already golden legacy of standing up for what's right, no matter the cost.

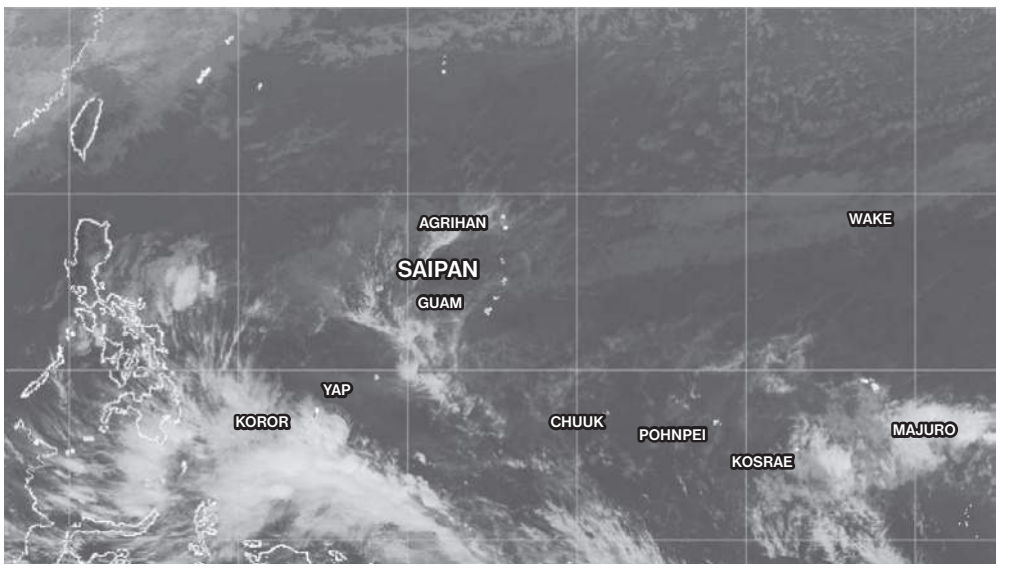
Sounds right on brand for both.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers	Partly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.
85° 76°	85° 76	85° 75°	85° 75°	86° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:25 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows a shear line affecting Tinian and Saipan, while Guam and Rota have few if any showers. The shear line has continued to push southward over the last 10 hours. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast wind waves and east-southeast swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy/Wind	29 / 24 °F
Palau	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:45 AM	18:15 PM
Thursday	06:45 AM	18:16 PM
Friday	06:45 AM	18:16 PM
Saturday	06:44 AM	18:17 PM
Sunday	06:44 AM	18:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	04:42	17:10 PM	-
Thursday	05:21	18:00 PM	-
Friday	06:02	18:53 PM	-
Saturday	06:46	19:48 AM	-
Sunday	07:33	20:45 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	26 / 20 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	3 / -8 °F
Hong Kong	Shower	14 / 11 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	27 / 19 °F
London	Cloudy	11 / 5 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	19 / 6 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	32 / 24°F
Melbourne	AM Light Rain	19 / 12 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	26 / 22 °F
New York	Rain	6 / 3 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	10 / 2 °F
Paris	Cloudy	9 / 8°F
Busan	Partly Cloudy	8 / -1 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	17 / 9 °F
Salem	Cloudy	19 / 15 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	15 / 6 °F
Seoul	Sunny	1 / 1-0°F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	11 / 0 °F
Washington, DC	Shower	13 / 8 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
03:13 AM	Low Tide	-0.62
10:03 AM	High Tide	1.81
3:46 PM	Low Tide	0.84
8:45 PM	High Tide	1.80

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	3, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

USDOL raises minimum wage for federal contract workers

The U.S. Department of Labor has raised the minimum wage for federal contract workers to $15.00 per hour starting Jan. 30, 2022—an average increase for workers of $5,228 a year.

That means construction workers, childcare, health care, and building and other service workers employed on federal contracts will receive a long overdue pay raise! In all, this minimum wage increase will affect more than 300,000 workers—54% of which are women and 25% are workers of color.

The DOL said that this "historic federal investment in our nation's infrastructure will create millions of new jobs in construction and related industries."

Additional benefits

The rule also lends protections to federal contract workers because it:

- guarantees yearly minimum wage adjustments
- increases the pay for workers with disabilities who may otherwise earn less than the minimum wage
- makes certain tipped federal contract workers make at least 85% of the full minimum wage as their cash wage starting Jan. 1, 2023, and 100% starting Jan. 1, 2024, and
- reinstitutes minimum wage protections to those who provide recreational services on federal lands.

As of Jan. 30, 2022, most new contracts, including renewals or extensions, will be affected by the new rule. This includes federal contract workers in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Outer Continental Shelf lands as defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Wake Island and Johnston Island. ***(Renee Cocchi/hrmorning.com)***

FOMT recognize NOAA Sanctuaries public outreach efforts

NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries office is seeking public comments related to the 5-year review of the National Marine Sanctuary designation for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. The Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship Stakeholder Meeting conducted by the Natural Resources Committee in the House chamber hosted NOAA Sanctuaries to give attendees the opportunity to comment or ask questions yesterday, Feb. 1, 2022.

As the original nominator for the sanctuary designation, the Friends of the Mariana Trench presented its plans for the renewal process and shared its three overarching points for the public's consideration.

First, the Friends are not planning to make substantive changes to the nomination but will propose changing the name. The Mariana Trench is world famous but today it seems more appropriate to put more emphasis on the stewardship of the people who have called this place home for more than 4,000 years. To this end, the Friends are interested in hearing from our community for renaming suggestions.

Second, the Friends want to stress the importance of co-management with the federal government in any proposed National Marine Sanctuary. There should be significant discussion about which CNMI agencies and/or Indigenous groups should be engaged in co-management.

Third, the Friends are not proposing any additional restrictions for small fishing vessels homeported in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, nor will the proposal affect any existing commercial offshore fisheries. It is important, however, to address foreign and illegal fishing within the sanctuary if the nomination is moved to the next step (designation).

The ocean is our oldest ancestor and the ultimate provider. It is a source of sustenance, a place of celebration, and a pillar of our traditions. When the ocean thrives, our traditions thrive too.

It's in this spirit that we welcome NOAA Sanctuaries efforts to provide opportunities for public participation in the consideration of the Mariana Trench sanctuary nomination 5-year review.

NOAA Sanctuaries is hosting a virtual public meeting on Feb. 12, 2022, at 10am ChST. To register for this event visit https://nominate.noaa.gov/5-year-review.html.

Alternatively, if you would like to meet up and with us, the Friends are hosting a watch party at the Marianas Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations resource room. We will meet a little bit early to answer questions and hang around after for those who want to talk about it more. Refreshments and snacks will be available. If you would like to attend the watch party, RSVP Joleen Salas at (670) 483-3668 (call, text or WhatsApp) or you can send an email to info@friendsmarianatrench.org. ***(PR)***

Power outage in San Antonio tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, affecting San Antonio on Saipan.

This power outage will specifically affect Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along Guihan St., Laiguan Av., Hiyok St., Gatdas Av., Kacho Av., Hakmang Av., San Antonio St., Hiteng St., Sesyon Av., Tataga St., Uhang Av., Laggua Av., and Tarakitu St.

This will allow CUC to replace two rotted primary wooden power poles along Kacho Avenue. No water wells or wastewater facility will be affected. ***(PR)***

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-OVA-42200063

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"LEASE OF A CLASS "E" VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. STANLEY T. IAKOPO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AT 664-2650 OR VIA EMAIL TO stanley.iakopo@gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR/42200061 (CIF ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" PICKUP TRUCKS, 4WD, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. DAVID M. CALVO, RESIDENT DIRECTOR, VIA EMAIL TO davemcalvo@gmail.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID M. CALVO
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR/FW-42200060 (CIF ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" PICKUP TRUCKS, 4WD, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ DAVID CALVO
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

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www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: February 3, 2022

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding proposed funding to support construction of a limestone rock revetment along Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2022-01-14-CZMA-Determination-Garapan-Revetment-SFF-IX-0648-XB266.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program (CMP).

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's CMP can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

Public notices are published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. State agencies are not required to provide public notice of the receipt of a negative determination or the resolution of an objection to a negative determination, unless a Federal agency submits a consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR § 930.34. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on February 3, 2022 and ending on February 18, 2022. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accountant – JMC-2022-02, Saipan, CNMI

ACCOUNTANT,
Joeten Motor Company, Inc., Saipan, CNMI

Overall in-charge of the accounting and administrative operations of the Company. Report to the management regarding the finances of the Company. Formulate and implement office policies and procedures for the entire operations of the Company. Prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and in conformity to reporting and general accepted accounting principle (GAAP) acceptable to the United States. Prepare company budget and monitoring budget versus actual expenses. Performs General Ledger posting, reconciliation, prepare balance sheet schedule on a monthly basis, such as preparation of Fixed assets lapsing schedule, pre-payments, accruals of expenses. Compiles Financial Statements in conformity with auditors requirements. Calculate CNMI and federal government taxes on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Prepares individual and corporate income tax returns for the Company. Responds to CNMI Revenue and IRS letters and prepares necessary documents needed to correct and comply tax filing. Prepares recommendations to the top management, with regards to meeting company budget, cost cutting measures, and help in the implementation of company set policies.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field, foreign educational equivalent accepted, plus 2 years experience in general accounting functions. Able to supervise accounting and administrative staff. Knowledge in preparing Financial Statement in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principle (GAAP). Good oral and communication skills. Good interpersonal qualities.

Salary: $ 15.95 per hour.

Workplace: BEACH ROAD SAN JOSE VILLAGE, JOETEN MOTORS BUILDING Saipan, CNMI

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Business

Thai snack bar is now the Zaabder Thai Restaurant

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zaabder Thai Restaurant's is located right across Hannam Supermarket in Koblerville.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Zaabder Thai Snack Bar has changed its name to Zaabder Thai Restaurant and is now a full dine-in restaurant.

Monita Phonsan Paul, a graduate of Saipan Southern High School, said they opened for diners last July 13 and it has become sort of the go-to place for those pining for Thai food in the southern end of the island.

"We offer a variety of Thai food that are not offered here in the CNMI. We offer a variety of noodle soups ranging from regular noodle soup to tom yum-styled noodle soups. We also offer a dish that is inspired by my mother's birth region in Thailand, that is *khao khuk klapi* (shrimp paste fried rice with five sides). It's No. 2 in our menu," she said.

As for their bestsellers, Paul said their diners seem to order a lot of *sua rong hai* (No. 38) and *wonton* soup (No. 26).

Other Thai food on the menu are *gaeng daeng* (red curry with choice of chicken or shrimp), *khai jiao* (Thai-style fried egg), *kuay tiew tomyum* (savory noodle soup with a choice of pork or seafood topped with peanuts), and *todd moo* (Thai-style fried pork).

And for the new year, Zaabder Thai Restaurant has a new menu that includes a variety of Isaan-style papaya salads that come with raw or cooked seafood, Thai-style hotpot, crispy pork (No. 2), new tom yum dishes, and Vietnamese rolls (No. 64).

"We've introduced so much more delicious food that we welcome all patrons to check out. Business has been going well so far. We have many local patrons and everyone enjoys the food. We're fortunate to get 100% customer support," she said.

Zaabder Thai Restaurant's som-tam-talay. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zaabder Thai Restaurant's fried pork. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paul earlier said their restaurant is named as such because "zaabder" means "delicious" in the Thai-Isaan language. Paul said their location in Koblerville is ideal because there's not much businesses selling food in the southern part of Saipan.

"The community has been very happy and supportive that we have chosen this location and our high quality but affordable food is our main perk," she said.

Zaabder Thai Restaurant is located right across Hannam Supermarket in Koblerville and has room for 25 guests under COVID-19 restrictions. It's open everyday from Monday to Sunday, 10:30am-9pm. For reservations or to order in advance, call 670-285-4481.

"We welcome all foodies and patrons who are willing to taste our delicious authentic Thai cuisine," said Paul.

Nation

Pfizer asks FDA OK for vaccine for kids under 5

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pfizer on Tuesday asked the U.S. to authorize extra-low doses of its COVID-19 vaccine for children under 5, potentially opening the way for the very youngest Americans to start receiving shots as early as March.

In an extraordinary move, the Food and Drug Administration had urged Pfizer and its partner BioNTech to apply earlier than the companies had planned—and before it's settled if the youngsters will need two shots or three.

The nation's 19 million children under 5 are the only group not yet eligible for vaccination against the coronavirus. Many parents have been pushing for an expansion of shots to toddlers and preschoolers, especially as the omicron variant sent record numbers of youngsters to the hospital.

"I would say the parents in my office are desperate" to get young kids vaccinated, said Dr. Dyan Hes, who runs a pediatrics practice in New York City, where vaccination rates are high. For many, "that's the first thing they ask when they walk through the door: 'When do you think the shot is going to come out?'"

Pfizer aims to give children as young as 6 months shots that contain one-tenth of the dose given to adults. The company said it had started submitting its data to the FDA and expects to complete the process in a few days.

An open question is how many shots those children will need. Two of the extra-low doses turned out to be strong enough for babies but not for preschoolers in early testing. Pfizer now is testing a third shot, data that's expected in late March.

Wide swath of US braces for winter storm

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Airlines canceled hundreds of flights Tuesday, governors urged residents to stay off roads and schools closed campuses as a huge swath of the U.S. braced for a major winter storm that was set to put millions of Americans in the path of heavy snow and freezing rain.

The approaching blast of frigid weather, which was expected to begin arriving Tuesday night, put a long stretch of states from New Mexico to Vermont under winter storm warnings and watches. More than a foot of snow was possible in Michigan, on the heels of a vicious nor'easter last weekend that brought blizzard conditions to many parts of the East Coast.

"It will be a very messy system and will make travel very difficult," said Marty Rausch, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in College Park, Maryland.

The projected footprint of the storm extended as far south as Texas, where nearly a year after a catastrophic freeze buckled the state's power grid in one of the worst blackouts in U.S. history, Gov. Greg Abbott defended the state's readiness. The forecast does not call for the same prolonged and frigid temperatures as the February 2021 storm and the National Weather Service said the approaching system would, generally, not be as bad this time for Texas.

"No one can guarantee that there won't be any" outages caused by demand on the power grid, Abbott said Tuesday. "But what we will work to achieve, and what we're prepared to achieve is that power is going to stay on across the entire state."

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Gunman kills 2 Virginia college officers, arrested

BRIDGEWATER, Va. (AP)—A gunman shot and killed two campus officers at a private college Tuesday, prompting a protracted campus lockdown and search before the suspect was apprehended, state police and school officials said. The lockdown began in the early afternoon when Bridgewater College officials sent out a tweet in the early afternoon warning students and faculty about a shooter on campus. The college sent out a follow-up tweet about 2 p.m. saying police had apprehended a suspect after searching the campus but that students should continue sheltering in place. A news photographer captured an image of the apparent suspect being arrested, laying face-down on the ground as more than a half-dozen law enforcement officers approached with guns drawn. The college gave the all-clear about 4:30 p.m. No other injuries were reported.

Arizona woman accused in child-abuse death of her grandson

PHOENIX (AP)—A woman booked on suspicion of murder and child abuse in the death of her 11-year-old grandson in an Arizona hotel room is accused of striking the boy in the head with a ratchet and failing to seek medical treatment for his injuries, according to court records released Tuesday. The boy was found unresponsive Sunday at the Scottsdale hotel where he and his 9-year-old half brother lived for the past two years with their grandmother, Stephanie Marie Davis, and her husband, Thomas James Desharnais. Both Davis and Desharnais have been charged with murder and child abuse. Investigators and court documents say there is a history of severe mistreatment of both children, including physical and verbal abuse. Authorities say the 9-year-old has been placed in foster care.

Police: 2 students shot, 1 fatally, outside Minnesota school

RICHFIELD, Minn. (AP)—One student was killed and another critically injured in a shooting Tuesday afternoon near the front entrance to a suburban Minneapolis school, police said. Police Chief Jay Henthorne said the students were shot outside South Education Center in Richfield, a suburb just south of Minneapolis. The surviving student was in critical condition at a local hospital. Henthorne said suspects fled and police searched the area. "This is a tragic day in the city of Richfield," he said. He gave no other details on the students. Richfield police arrested two suspects and recovered a handgun after executing simultaneous search warrants at two Minneapolis addresses, they announced Tuesday night. "Officers are not looking for any additional suspects, but continue to process evidence related to the shooting," police said.

Asia

FBI chief: Threat from China more brazen than ever before

WASHINGTON (AP)—The threat to the West from the Chinese government is "more brazen" and damaging than ever before, FBI Director Christopher Wray said Monday night in accusing Beijing of stealing American ideas and innovation and launching massive hacking operations.

The speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library amounted to a stinging rebuke of the Chinese government just days before Beijing is set to occupy the global stage by hosting the Winter Olympics. It made clear that even as American foreign policy remains consumed by Russia-Ukraine tensions, the U.S. continues to regard China as its biggest threat to long-term economic security.

"When we tally up what we see in our investigations, over 2,000 of which are focused on the Chinese government trying to steal our information or technology, there's just no country that presents a broader threat to our ideas, innovation, and economic security than China," Wray said, according to a copy of the speech provided by the FBI.

Wray

The bureau is opening new cases to counter Chinese intelligence operations every 12 hours or so, Wray said, with Chinese government hackers pilfering more personal and corporate data than all other countries combined.

"The harm from the Chinese government's economic espionage isn't just that its companies pull ahead based on illegally gotten technology. While they pull ahead, they push our companies and workers behind," Wray said. "That harm—company failures, job losses—has been building for a decade to the crush we feel today. It's harm felt across the country, by workers in a whole range of industries."

Chinese government officials have repeatedly rejected accusations from the U.S. government, with the spokesman for the embassy in Washington saying last July that Americans have "made groundless attacks" and malicious smears about Chinese cyberattacks. The statement described China as a "staunch defender of cybersecurity."

The threat from China is hardly new, but it has also not abated over the last decade.

"I've spoken a lot about this threat since I became director" in 2017, Wray said. "But I want to focus on it here tonight because it's reached a new level—more brazen, more damaging, than ever before, and it's vital—vital—that all of us focus on that threat together."

The Justice Department in 2014 indicted five Chinese military officers on charges of hacking into major American corporations. One year later, the U.S. and China announced a deal at the White House to not steal each other's intellectual property or trade secrets for commercial gain.

US urges UN to meet on N. Korea missile

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States called for the U.N. Security Council to meet Thursday on North Korea's most recent test of an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of reaching Guam, its most significant launch in years that could target American territory.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned Sunday's launch, saying it broke the North's announced moratorium on such launches and clearly violated Security Council resolutions, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

The U.N. chief urged North Korea "to desist from taking any further counter-productive actions," expressing "great concern" that Pyongyang again "disregarded any consideration for international flight or maritime safety," Haq said Tuesday. Guterres also called for all parties to seek a peaceful diplomatic solution.

The State Department confirmed late Tuesday that the U.S. Mission to the U.N. requested closed council consultations be held Thursday.

After Sunday's launch, White House officials said they saw the latest missile test as part of an escalating series of provocations over the last several months by North Korea that have become increasingly concerning and are aimed at winning relief from sanctions.

The Hwasong-12 missile launched Sunday was the most powerful missile North Korea has tested since 2017. That's when the country launched Hwasong-12 and longer-range missiles in a torrid run of weapons firings to acquire an ability to launch nuclear strikes on U.S. military bases in Northeast Asia and the Pacific and even the American homeland.

In recent months, North Korea has launched a variety of weapons systems and threatened to lift the four-year moratorium on more serious weapons tests such as nuclear explosions and ICBM launches. Sunday's launch was the North's seventh round of missile launches in January alone, and other weapons tested recently include a developmental hypersonic missile and a submarine-launched missile.

Violence, protests mark anniversary of Myanmar army rule

BANGKOK (AP)—A nationwide strike marked the one-year anniversary Tuesday of the army's seizure of power in Myanmar, as protests and sporadic violence across the country renewed concern over the ongoing struggle for power.

Photos and video on social media showed a "silent strike" emptied streets in the largest city of Yangon and other towns as people stayed home and businesses shut in a show of opposition to army rule.

Violence was reported as well, as the country faces an insurgency that some U.N. experts now characterize as a civil war.

Local media said an explosion killed at least two people and injured dozens at a pro-military rally in a town on the eastern border with Thailand. The cause of the blast was not immediately clear.

The military's takeover on Feb. 1, 2021, ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party was about to begin a second term in office after winning a landslide election victory.

Widespread nonviolent demonstrations followed the army's takeover, but armed resistance arose after the protests were put down with lethal force. About 1,500 civilians have been killed but the government has been unable to suppress the opposition.

On the anniversary, the United States and others again criticized the military takeover. President Joe Biden in a statement called for the military to free Suu Kyi and other detainees, and return Myanmar on a path to democracy.

World

WHO: In 10 weeks, omicron surge has caused COVID-19 cases to soar

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization chief said Tuesday that 90 million cases of coronavirus have been reported since the omicron variant was first identified 10 weeks ago—amounting to more than in all of 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With many countries easing their restrictive measures amid public fatigue about them, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyeus cautioned that omicron should not be underestimated even though it has shown to bring less severe illness than earlier variants—and cited "a very worrying increase in deaths in most regions of the world."

"We are concerned that a narrative has taken hold in some countries that because of vaccines—and because of omicron's high transmissibility and lower severity—preventing transmission is no longer possible and no longer necessary," he told a regular WHO briefing on the pandemic.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Tedros added. "It's premature for any country either to surrender or to declare victory. This virus is dangerous and it continues to evolve before our very eyes."

WHO said four of its six regions worldwide are seeing increasing trends in deaths.

Many European countries have begun easing lockdown measures, including Britain, France, Ireland and the Netherlands. Finland will end its COVID-19 restrictions this month.

On Tuesday, Denmark's government scrapped most restrictions aimed at fighting the pandemic, saying it no longer considers COVID-19 "a socially critical disease."

The nation of 5.8 million has in recent weeks seen more than 50,000 new cases a day, but the number of patients in intensive care units has declined.

"Now is not the time to lift everything all at once. We have always urged—always urged—caution in applying interventions as well as lifting those interventions in a steady and in a slow way, piece by piece," said Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead on COVID-19.

Dr. Michael Ryan, the WHO emergencies chief, said countries with higher vaccination rates "have more choices" about whether to ease their restrictions, but said they should assess factors like their current epidemiology, at-risk populations, immunity in the population, and access to health care tools to fight the pandemic.

WORLD BRIEFS

US pauses $450M aid for Burkina Faso over president's ouster

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—A U.S. government agency said Monday that it is pausing $450 million in assistance to the West African nation of Burkina Faso, where mutinous soldiers overthrew the democratically elected president last week. The Millennium Challenge Corporation, an independent U.S. agency that provides grants and assistance to countries that meet standards for good governance, said its decision came because of the uprising against President Roch Marc Christian Kabore. "Burkina Faso military officers claim to have suspended the constitution and dissolved the government and national assembly," the agency said in a statement. "These actions contradict MCC's commitment to democratic governance and upholding the rule of law, principles that underpin the agency's rigorous criteria for selection."

Anti-vaccine protest in Canada spurs outrage

TORONTO (AP)—In a scene at odds with Canadians' reputation for niceness and rule-following, thousands of protesters railing against vaccine mandates and other COVID-19 restrictions descended on the capital over the weekend, deliberately blocking traffic around Parliament Hill. In the aftermath of Canada's biggest pandemic protest to date, the demonstrators have found little sympathy in a country where more than 80% are vaccinated. Many people were outraged by some of the crude behavior. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called the Ottawa protesters a "fringe minority" and said they reflected the proliferation of "disinformation and misinformation online, conspiracy theorists, about microchips, about God knows what else that go with the tinfoil hats."

DEADLY LANDSLIDE AP

Rescue workers carry away the body of a victim after flash flooding triggered by rain filled up nearby streams that burst their containment mechanisms, collapsing a hillside and bringing waves of mud over homes in La Gasca area of Quito, Ecuador, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022. A rain-weakened hillside collapsed in Ecuador's capital, sweeping over homes and a sports field and killing at least 24 people, city officials said Tuesday.

Environment

Fun beach cleanups with Island Keepers CNMI

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

A group of students from the Garapan Elementary School gathered last Saturday morning at Micro Beach to help pick up trash along the beach. With them were members of Island Keepers CNMI—a public group of volunteers from all over the island, united in a mission to keep the CNMI clean and pristine.

Island Keepers organizer Noriko Akari Baidya told *Saipan Tribune* that they not only pick up trash in beaches but also help clean up public roads and park and other sites like jungles. When they do trekking activities, they also pick up trash.

Aside from Micro Beach, the group has been helping clean up Paupau Beach, Laulau Beach, Garapan Fishing Base, as well as dive sites. Most of the trash they collect are beer cans and cigarette butts.

"Everybody understands that we need to keep the environment [clean], [and yet] everybody can easily see trash that is in front of you. Our important point is 'clean up with fun,'" Baidya said.

In last Saturday's cleanup, Island Keepers collaborated with Jonathan Ball, a fifth-grade teacher at the Garapan Elementary School. Eight of his students participated in the activity.

"Our school, we have Saturday programs and our program is based on mental health and socio-emotional learning, and we are trying to get the kids active and socializing more. Today, we teamed up with Island Keepers and we're doing a beach cleanup. It's a competition," he said.

IVA MAURIN
Island Keepers CNMI volunteers make cleanups fun, with its members picking up trash in beaches, public parks and roads, jungles, and even trekking and dive sites.

IVA MAURIN
Garapan Elementary School fifth grade teacher Jonathan Ball teamed up with Island Keepers CNMI for a beach cleanup activity with his students last Saturday at Micro Beach in Garapan.

The group divided into two teams and for 30 minutes, picked up trash, which they weighed shortly after. A total of 20 kilos of trash were collected by both teams.

Ball also told *Saipan Tribune* that aside from the cleanup, they also are doing a unit in Science about ecosystems where they talk about environmental protection initiatives and connect it to conservation.

"How can we conserve the ecosystems that are here?" he added. "So we talk about it by cleaning up a lot of the plastics. We're making it more beautiful but also protecting the marine life, the sea turtles—keeping it beautiful but also helping the animals that live here."

And to help protect the environment, the Garapan Elementary School teacher also appealed to everyone in the community that when going somewhere, "take your trash with you when you leave" to help keep the beaches clean and beautiful.

Baidya echoes the same, asking everyone in the community to just pick up.

"Just pick up trash in front of you because the trash is available to travel by wind, and brought to the ocean, to the other islands, so just pick up trash you find when you go to the beach or [go] diving and swimming."

To know more about their beach cleanups and to help volunteer, look for Island Keepers CNMI on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/874134049895799).

Eat more salads and reduce your carbon footprint

Q: I've recently been really into salads and have been wondering, does my consumption of more salads and less meat help fight climate change?

(DREAMSTIME/TNS)
Eating more salad and less (or no) animal products is one of the most impactful ways you can fight climate change and help the planet.

A: Prioritizing salads is indeed a step forward, as meat and animal products lead to pollution and the production of greenhouse gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere and lead to global warming. Methane emissions from cows is a significant source of greenhouse pollution, but livestock agriculture also contributes to global warming in other ways. In fact, the global meat industry would be the third largest polluter if it was a country after the United States and India.

Worse, 58% of food emissions come from animal products alone. Another contributing factor is improper storage methods leading to immediate declines in water quality when antibiotics and feces-borne diseases such as E. coli enter waterways. Several containment failures for pig feces in North Carolina in recent years highlight the severity of the problem.

Plant-based diets have the potential for reducing one's carbon footprint. A carbon footprint is how much each person contributes to climate change through their consumer behaviors, including their support of factory food production.

If you're one of the 89% of Americans who eat meat and other animal products, you're complicit with factory farming techniques. However, choosing to minimize your meat consumption—by eating salads—can help break this cycle. In fact, a recent study in the journal Food Policy finds that cutting meat consumption in half can reduce a typical American's carbon footprint by some 30%.

Some argue that so-called "ethical consumption" is less significant a factor than institutional action—and therefore individual actors don't have the capacity to shift global climate problems. But this line of reasoning fails to take into account the importance of citizen and consumer action in shifting societal behaviors. Indeed, consumers can work in tandem with governments and businesses. This could include boycotting meat, advocating for social change or volunteering with or donating to related nonprofit and/or political campaigns. Voting for candidates who take the climate crisis seriously is also an important way individuals can make a difference.

Finally, consider other ideas to reduce your carbon footprint even further. Salads are a great start, but staying mindful of what one puts into a salad is also important. Consider reducing quinoa and almond consumption. Quinoa degrades soil quality. Almonds siphon water away from people and animals, which contributes to drought conditions in California. Focusing on reducing meat consumption as much as possible may also be helpful, including switching to vegetarian proteins such as beans or reducing a reliance on proteins as the centerpiece of a meal.

Even if you've already done a great job reducing your carbon footprint in other ways, think about how much more you could be contributing by reducing or eliminating meat from your diet. ***(E/The Environmental Magazine)***

Measuring climate change: It's not just heat, it's humidity

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

When it comes to measuring global warming, humidity, not just heat, matters in generating dangerous climate extremes, a new study finds.

Researchers say temperature by itself isn't the best way to measure climate change's weird weather and downplays impacts in the tropics. But factoring in air moisture along with heat shows that climate change since 1980 is nearly twice as bad as previously calculated, according to their study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The energy generated in extreme weather, such as storms, floods and rainfall is related to the amount of water in the air. So a team of scientists in the U.S. and China decided to use an obscure weather measurement called equivalent potential temperature—or theta-e — that reflects "the moisture energy of the atmosphere," said study co-author V. "Ram" Ramanathan, a climate scientist at the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Cornell University. It's expressed in degrees, like temperature.

"There are two drivers of climate change: temperature and humidity," Ramanathan said. "And so far we measured global warming just in terms of temperature."

But by adding the energy from humidity, "the extremes—heat waves, rainfall and other measures of extremes—correlate much better," he said.

That's because as the world warms, the air holds more moisture, nearly 4% for every degree Fahrenheit (7% for every degree Celsius). When that moisture condenses, it releases heat or energy, "that's why when it rains, now it pours," Ramanathan said.

In addition, water vapor is a potent heat-trapping gas in the atmosphere that increases climate change, he said.

Life & Style

ABC suspends Whoopi Goldberg over Holocaust race remarks

NEW YORK (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg was suspended for two weeks Tuesday as co-host of "The View" because of what the head of ABC News called her "wrong and hurtful comments" about Jews and the Holocaust.

"While Whoopi has apologized, I've asked her to take time to reflect and learn about the impact of her comments. The entire ABC News organization stands in solidarity with our Jewish colleagues, friends, family and communities," ABC News President Kim Godwin said in a statement.

The suspension came a day after Goldberg's comment during a discussion on "The View" that race was not a factor in the Holocaust. Goldberg apologized hours later and again on Tuesday's morning episode, but the original remark drew condemnation from several prominent Jewish leaders.

"My words upset so many people, which was never my intention," she said Tuesday morning. "I understand why now and for that I am deeply, deeply grateful because the information I got was really helpful and helped me understand some different things."

Goldberg made her original comments during a discussion on the show Monday about a Tennessee school board's banning of "Maus," a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel about the Nazi death camps during World War II. She said the Holocaust was "not about race ... it's about man's inhumanity to other man."

"I misspoke," Goldberg said at the opening of Tuesday's show.

The flare-up over Goldberg's remarks this week highlighted the enduring complexity of some race-related issues, including the widespread but strongly contested notion that only people of color can be victims of racism.

Goldberg

"Effective immediately, I am suspending Whoopi Goldberg for two weeks for her wrong and hurtful comments," Godwin said in her statement.

"The View" brought on Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League and author of "It Could Happen Here," on Tuesday to discuss why her words had been hurtful.

"Jewish people at the moment are feeling besieged," Greenblatt said.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, praised Goldberg for being outspoken over the years on social issues but said he struggled to understand her statement on the Holocaust.

"The only explanation that I have for it is that there is a new definition of racism that has been put out there in the public recently that defines racism exclusively as the targeting of people of color. And obviously history teaches us otherwise," Cooper said.

"Everything about Nazi Germany and about the targeting of the Jews and about the Holocaust was about race and racism. That's the unfortunate, unassailable historic fact," he said.

Kenneth L. Marcus, chairman of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, linked Goldberg's remarks to broader misconceptions of the Holocaust, Jewish identity and antisemitism.

"In her error, she was reflecting a misunderstanding of Jewish identity that is both widespread and dangerous that is sometimes described as erasive antisemitism," said Marcus, who is the author of 'The Definition of Anti-Semitism.'

"It is the notion that Jews should be viewed only as being white, privileged oppressors," he said. "It denies Jewish identity and involves a whitewashing of Jewish history."

Marcus referred to the use of anti-Jewish stereotypes "about being powerful, controlling and sinister," coupled with downplaying or denying antisemitism.

Jill Savitt, president and CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, offered a measured view of Goldberg's comments.

"No one can get into Whoopi Goldberg's head, ... But I think what she's trying to say is that the Holocaust is about hatred. It's about inhumanity. It's about what human beings will do to one another that is inhumane," Savitt said.

Complex issues demand more than placing blame, she said.

"I think people are not as quick to give anybody the benefit of the doubt these days, which is a shame because in order to work through painful, complicated, difficult issues, especially painful histories," Savitt said, "we could give each other a little more grace because people are going to make mistakes or they're going to say things that offend."

Ancient helmets, temple ruins found at dig in southern Italy

AP

This undated photo provided by the Archaeological Park of Paestum shows an ancient warrior helmet found in the Archaeological Park of Paestum and Velia, near Naples, Italy.

ROME (AP)—Archaeologists in southern Italy have discovered ancient warrior helmets and the ruins of a painted brick wall at a site that might have been a forerunner of a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, officials said Tuesday.

Italian Culture Minister Dario Franceschini said the remains dug up at the popular tourist site of Velia were found on what had been an acropolis of one of Magna Graecia's most important cities. Velia is 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Paestum, a much-visited site of ancient Greek temples.

The recently completed excavation at Velia unearthed a pair of helmets in good condition, the remains of a building, vases with the Greek inscription for "sacred" and metal fragments of what possibly were weapons, the culture ministry said.

State Museums Director Massimo Osanna, who formerly had long directed excavations at Pompeii, Italy's most celebrated excavated site, said the area explored at Velia probably contained relics of offerings made to Athena, the mythological Greek goddess of war and wisdom, after a key naval battle in the nearby Tyrrhenian Sea.

In the 6th-century B.C. battle of Alalia off the coast of Corsica, Greek forces were victorious over Etruscan forces and their Carthaginian allies.

Velia is famed for being the home of an ancient Greek school of philosophy, including philosophers Parmenides and Zeno. It was part of Magna Graecia, the area of southern Italy colonized by Greek city-states. The settlement at Velia occupied an upper part, or acropolis, of the area as well as hillsides, and was surrounded by a wall. The city's ancient name was Elea.

Velia's founding dates to about 540 B.C. by colonists from Asia Minor.

Franceschini said the discoveries yielded by the Velia excavation underscored the importance of investing in archaeological research to reveal "important pieces of the history of the Mediterranean."

Food fight results in friendship's bitter end

DEAR ABBY: When a friend of mine "makes dinner" for invited guests, it's either takeout Chinese food or delivered pizza. Frankly, I am sick of it. Last Thanksgiving, they invited me and several others over for dinner. You guessed it! Chinese food. I told my friend I was surprised and not in the mood for Chinese food, offered my apologies and left. We didn't talk for four months.

This past year I was again invited to Thanksgiving dinner. I declined and, when asked why, said, "I'm sick and tired of what is being offered." The response was, "Then I guess I'll stop inviting you. And I don't need your friendship." I replied, "Glad we are on the same page!"

Abby, this "friend" knows how to cook and could certainly order something different. Was I out of line? I have no regrets the friendship has ended.

FED UP IN THE WEST

DEAR FED UP: When someone accepts an invitation to someone's home, rather than criticize the menu, they should be grateful for the hospitality being extended. Were you out of line? The way you phrased your reason for declining was rude. You could have inquired about the menu and asked if you could bring something more "traditional." It's fortunate you have no regrets that your relationship with your former host has ended. I'm pretty sure the feelings are mutual.

DEAR ABBY: On Sunday evening, a much older woman I'd never met came to my door saying she was a neighbor and was there to recruit me to participate in a political lobbying event her church was sponsoring. This is not something I wish to do.

I tried to refuse nicely. But then she said several times she required my name, email address and phone number so she could send me more information as well as opportunities to pass the information to other people. I asked for her information instead, but saying "no, thank you" and trying to excuse myself to get back to my children didn't lessen her persistence. Eventually, I apologized and closed the door on her.

People should not be harassed in their home, even though she may very well be a neighbor in this small neighborhood. How could I have handled this better?

NO SOLICITING

DEAR NO SOLICITING: The person who came to your door had an agenda; it wasn't a social call. In a situation like the one that was thrust upon you, good manners did not require you to offer an apology. Frankly, you should have closed your front door SOONER.

**

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 65-year-old woman who has never enjoyed sex. I've had lovers, and I'm a very affectionate person, but the act itself has never been comfortable for me. Now that I'm post-menopausal, it's practically impossible.

I have never been married, but I want to find someone. In fact I yearn for a life partner. I'm on dating sites, and my question is: How should I describe myself? It seems most men want sex. Should I include my lack of interest in sex in my profile so they know what they're getting? I don't want to waste anyone's time, especially not my own. But this feels so weird and awkward to address.

EVERYTHING BUT THAT IN NEW YORK

DEAR EVERYTHING BUT: It would benefit you to go online and search for dating sites for people who want romance only, without sex. These sites do exist, and it may comfort you to know that you are DEFINITELY not alone. If you do try one, I hope you find the man you are looking for.

DEAR ABBY

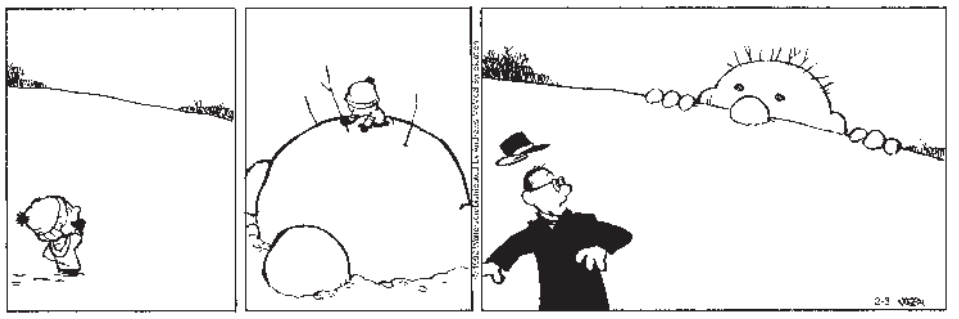
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



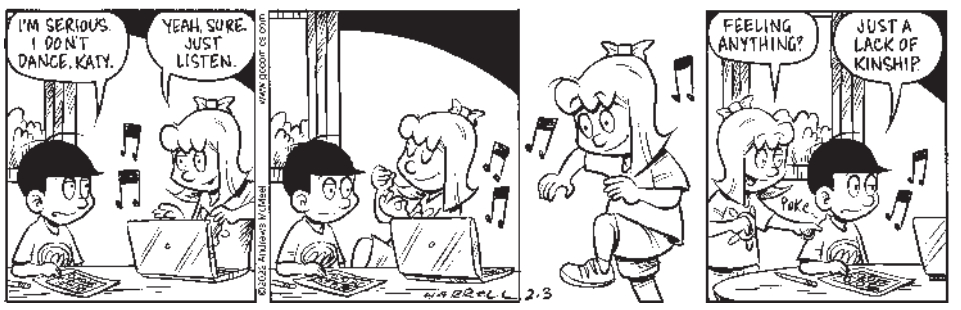
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THERE'S MY ALARM, REMINDING ME NOT TO WORK OUT
BEEDLE BEEDLE BEEDLE
AND MY OTHER ALARM, REMINDING ME TO HAVE A DONUT
BEEDLE BOODLE BADDLE
JIM DAVIS 2-3

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE BACK IN FACEBOOK JAIL.
YEAH, THEY SAY I SHARED MISINFORMATION.
WELL, YOU KNOW, THEIR FACT-CHECKERS CAN BE A BIT ZEALOUS. WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID?
THE OBVIOUS... TOILET WATER IS DELICIOUS!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Lass
4 June honorees
8 Only
12 Altar vow
13 Send forth
14 Manitoba tribe
15 Craving company
17 Film spool
18 Yale grad
19 Grads-to-be
21 Express differently
24 Napkin's place
25 "Am — blame?"
26 Have brunch
28 Condition
32 Body powder
34 Soft shoe, for short
36 Leisurely
37 Michael Caine title role
39 Lobbyists' org.
41 Fib
42 Italian "three"
44 Rose parts
46 Some tires
50 Dogpatch adjective
51 Brit. royal
52 "Rambo" star Sly
56 Achy
57 "Othello" villain
58 Calendar abbr.
59 Adolescent
60 Freudian topics
61 Arles summer

DOWN
1 Baseball's Hodges
2 Commotion
3 Solitary type
4 Yen
5 I love (Lat.)
6 Darkens
7 Bridge material
8 Screenwriter's creations
9 Twistable treat
10 Lusty look
11 Morays
16 "Xanadu" band
20 "Stillmatic" rapper
21 Oscar winner Moreno
22 List-ending abbr.
23 River blocker
27 Spinning toy
29 Isolated
30 Work hard
31 Flock females
33 National
35 Upper limit
38 Geological period
40 Orchestral strings
43 Commercial cow
45 Up to
46 Take five
47 Medicinal plant
48 Tragic
49 Men-only
53 Past
54 "Kidding!"
55 Wife of Adam

Solution time: 24 mins.

R	A	G			S	A	G	A			P	L	A	Y
C	R	U			C	B	E	R			R	I	P	E
A	E	R			H	A	L	F	D	O	Z	E	N	
S	A	U	D	I				S	U	V				
			I	S	P	S			H	F	F	D	S	
I	I	A	I	F	M	O	O	N			S	C	U	T
A	I				S	O	F	I	A			I	F	Y
G	O	A	D			I	H	A	I	F	N	O	T	F
S	T	R	U	M				A	F	F	S			
				F	O	P				L	A	T	E	X
H	A	L	F	P	R			C	E		G	A	M	
O	G	E	E			I	M	A	C			I	V	E
P	E	E	F			M	O	N	K			F	E	N

Yesterday's answer 2-3

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18			■	19		20				
21	22				23	■	24			■	■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28		29	30	31
32			33	■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40	■	41		
■	■	■	42		43	■	44		45			
46	47	48				49	■	50			■	■
51				■	52		53				54	55
56				■	57					■	58	
59				■	60					■	61	

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isla Fisher, 46; Nathan Lane, 66; Morgan Fairchild, 72; Blythe Danner, 79.

Happy Birthday: Lighten up, and strive to maintain an upbeat attitude. It will be difficult to reach your goals this year if you let negative thoughts take over. Look at every situation you encounter pragmatically, and you'll figure out how to make the most of whatever comes your way. Leave nothing to chance, and don't let outside influences lead you astray. Your numbers are 7, 15, 24, 29, 35, 37, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do what you must do, and don't stop until you are happy with the results. What you achieve now will result in rewards later. Keep the peace to avoid controversial conversations. Now is not the time to battle with others. 3 stars

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of unfinished business. When in doubt, pause and gather the information that will clarify your options and encourage you to take the necessary precautions before you commence. Planning and practicality lead to success. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take a pass if someone tempts you to be indulgent or excessive. A disciplined approach will be the key to positive results. Take care of your responsibilities before you move on to entertaining pastimes. Protect your reputation and position. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Explore the possibilities, and expand your horizons. You stand to make substantial gains if you are true to yourself and act passionately to make your dreams come true. Love, personal growth and a positive lifestyle change are within reach. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll find it challenging to get things done if you let outside influences interfere with your thoughts and progress. The changes others make may not be as beneficial for you as for them. Know when to break loose and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put your plans in motion. Divvy up the workload with people eager to reach the same goal. The more you integrate what you have to offer with other specialists or contributors, the better the outcome. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Shared space, expenses or responsibilities will need adjustments. If you aren't ready to face pending problems, do something that will encourage self-improvement. Figure out a foolproof plan before sharing your thoughts with someone who can thwart success. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You have more options than you realize. Take the path that offers something unique or playful. Doing things your way or differently will encourage long overdue change. A positive move will help you let go of the past. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be realistic, and express discipline when enticed by temptation. Ask questions to determine if it's worthwhile to follow through. Too much of anything will have its downside. Stick to what you know works, and avoid unnecessary ramifications. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Tally up your finances, and make alterations at home to lower your overhead. Getting back on track will reduce stress and encourage you to live in the moment and enjoy what life offers. Personal growth is favored. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Set a course, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Stop worrying about what others do or think, and set your sights on doing your own thing instead of being a follower and playing second fiddle to someone's whims. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A demonstrative approach to life will help you solve problems and get things done. Changing how you handle money will encourage greater financial freedom. Don't hold back when it comes to showing off your attributes or pursuing love. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, curious and forthright. You are hesitant and trustworthy.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8	6	1			
		3				5		
	1			3			2	
5			6		3			2
7		1				6		9
2			1		4			3
	6			5			7	
		4				3		
			4	2	8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	5	8	9	6	1	3	7	2
1	7	2	3	4	8	5	9	6
3	9	6	7	5	2	1	8	4
7	6	3	2	9	5	4	1	8
9	2	4	1	8	3	6	5	7
8	1	5	4	7	6	9	2	3
2	4	9	5	3	7	8	6	1
6	3	1	8	2	9	7	4	5
5	8	7	6	1	4	2	3	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE Solution: 4 letters

R	E	A	L	I	T	Y	T	R	A	P	H	O	M	E
E	S	E	R	A	W	T	F	O	S	C	R	E	E	N
T	R	C	A	B	L	E	E	T	O	M	E	R	T	O
A	U	Y	H	T	A	H	C	A	R	E	E	R	N	H
I	O	R	K	O	E	D	I	V	C	T	I	E	I	P
L	C	O	H	Z	O	G	O	H	S	S	V	K	A	O
O	A	T	A	D	A	L	A	A	Z	O	O	I	P	R
H	M	A	P	M	K	R	O	R	H	P	M	H	E	C
C	Y	R	E	O	G	C	E	E	O	R	O	V	K	I
R	R	O	O	E	R	T	A	C	U	T	I	O	O	M
A	T	B	R	E	U	D	L	O	O	L	S	N	A	E
E	N	A	L	P	S	A	T	R	A	V	E	L	R	D
S	U	L	M	E	S	I	C	R	E	X	E	I	A	I
E	O	O	T	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	W	N	K	A
R	C	A	M	E	R	A	U	D	I	O	T	E	X	T

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Audio, Book, Cable, Camera, Career, Charger, Chat, Class, Computer, Country, Course, Data, Exercise, Game, Glasses, Headset, Hike, Home, Karaoke, Laboratory, Live, Media, Microphone, Movie, Online, Paint, Park, Party, Photo, Post, Reality, Remote, Research, Retail, Roller Coaster, School, Screen, Software, Storage, Text, Tour, Travel, Video, Wire, Zoo

Yesterday's Answer: Guidance

The NEW **Treasuries 46 and 47** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Tom Brady retires after 22 seasons, 7 Super Bowl titles

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Tom Brady walked away from the NFL on his own terms, still at the top of his game.

Brady, the most successful quarterback in league history and one of the greatest champions in professional sports, has retired after winning seven Super Bowls and setting numerous passing records in an unprecedented 22-year career.

"This is difficult for me to write, but here it goes: I am not going to make that competitive commitment anymore," Brady wrote in a lengthy post on Instagram. "I have loved my NFL career, and now it is time to focus my time and energy on other things that require my attention."

The 44-year-old Brady has long stated his desire to spend more time with his wife, supermodel Gisele Bundchen, and three children despite his unique ability to perform exceptionally well at an age when most athletes are way past their prime.

Brady goes out after leading the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl title last season and NFC South championship this season.

News of Brady's pending retirement leaked Saturday but he said Monday night on his SiriusXM podcast he wasn't ready to finalize his plans.

That came Tuesday morning.

"Right now, it's best I leave the field of play to the next generation of dedicated and committed athletes," Brady said.

Brady thanked the Buccaneers organization, his teammates, ownership, general manager Jason Licht, coach Bruce Arians, his trainer Alex Guerrero, agents Don Yee and Steve Dubin and his family in his nine-page post. He didn't mention the New England Patriots, where he spent his first 20 seasons and won six Super Bowls playing for Bill Belichick. But Brady thanked the Patriots and their fans on Twitter, saying: "I'm beyond grateful. Love you all."

AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Rob Gronkowski, left, and quarterback Tom Brady (12) celebrate after the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game against the Kansas City Chiefs in Tampa, Fla., Feb. 7, 2021.

Brady said he's still figuring out how he'll spend his time, but he plans to be involved in his TB12 health and wellness company, Brady clothing line and NFT company.

"I know for sure I want to spend a lot of time giving to others and trying to enrich other people's lives, just as so many have done for me," he said.

Brady led the NFL in yards passing (5,316), touchdowns (43), completions (485) and attempts (719) in 2021, but the Buccaneers lost at home to the Los Angeles Rams in the divisional round.

Brady leaves as the career leader in yards passing (84,520) and TDs (624). He's the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and was MVP of the game five times.

Brady won three NFL MVP awards, was a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times. He was 243-73 in his career in the regular season and 35-12 in the playoffs.

"To finish a 22-year career while still performing at his peak was nothing short of extraordinary," Licht said. "I wish we had more time with Tom, but I understand and respect his decision to leave the game in order to spend more time with his family."

Brady went from 199th pick in the 2000 draft to replacing an injured Drew Bledsoe in 2001 and leading New England to a Super Bowl victory over the heavily favored Rams that season.

He led the Patriots to consecutive Super Bowl titles following the 2003-04 seasons. No team has since repeated as champions.

But New England wouldn't win another one for a decade, twice losing to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl, including a 17-14 defeat on Feb. 3, 2008, that prevented the Patriots from completing a perfect season.

Brady earned his fourth ring after the 2014 season. Two years later, in the biggest Super Bowl comeback, he led the Patriots out of a 28-3 deficit in the third quarter against Atlanta to win in overtime for No. 5. Brady got his sixth championship when New England beat the Rams following the 2018 season.

He joined the Buccaneers in 2020 amid a pandemic, instantly transforming a franchise that hadn't won a playoff game in 18 years. His buddy Rob Gronkowski came out of retirement to join him and they helped the Buccaneers become the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its stadium.

"He set a standard and helped create a culture that took our team to the mountaintop," Arians said.

Brady reached the playoffs 19 times, won 18 division titles, went 10-4 in conference championships and 7-3 in Super Bowls.

After starting his first game on Sept. 30, 2001, Brady was under center for every game except when he suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 1 in 2008 and the first four games in 2016 when he sat out a suspension because of the deflated footballs scandal.

"An incredible competitor and leader, his stellar career is remarkable for its longevity but also for the sustained excellence he displayed year after year," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement.

Known for his work ethic, intense exercise regimen and strict diet, Brady was better with age.

After turning 37, Brady won four Super Bowls and was 17-4 in the playoffs. He was 95-30, completed 65.2% of his passes for 35,371 yards, 265 TDs and 69 interceptions in the regular season in those eight seasons.

"I have always believed the sport of football is an 'all-in' proposition — if a 100% competitive commitment isn't there, you won't succeed, and success is what I love so much about our game," Brady said. "There is a physical, mental, and emotional challenge every single day that has allowed me to maximize my highest potential. And I have tried my very best these past 22 years. There are no shortcuts to success on the field or in life."

Some of Tom Brady's greatest moments in his 22-year career

Tom Brady filled his 22 seasons in the NFL with more wins, yards passing and touchdowns than any other quarterback.

And nobody has ever earned more Super Bowl rings than Brady with seven.

Brady performed at such a high level that his opponents gauged their own failures a bit more kindly. Los Angeles Rams cornerback Jalen Ramsey, all of 5 when Brady made his NFL debut, summed up the league's respect for the quarterback who announced his retirement Tuesday.

"The best QB of all time retired, DANG… he threw his last TD on me," Ramsey wrote on Twitter.

Brady provided enough highlights to fill the video vaults at NFL Films. Here are just a few of his greatest moments:

SUPER BOWL COMEBACK

Of course, the first Super Bowl decided in overtime featured Brady leading one of the greatest comebacks in sports history.

Trailing Atlanta 28-3 in the third quarter, Brady threw two TDs and then drove the Patriots 91 yards by completing six passes to set up the tying score inside the final minute. Once New England won the toss, Brady completed his first five passes as the Patriots won 34-28 for their fifth Super Bowl on Feb. 7, 2017.

OVERTIME DRIVE FOR SUPER BOWL

Already the oldest quarterback to play in a Super Bowl, Brady outdueled the NFL's young MVP in Patrick Mahomes in Kansas City on Jan. 20, 2019, with another Super Bowl berth on the line. Brady answered each big drive by Mahomes, especially in a thrilling fourth quarter where the lead was swapped four times.

Once the Chiefs forced overtime, Brady took over after the Patriots won the coin toss. He converted on a trio of third-and-10s with a pair of passes to Julian Edelman and a third to Rob Gronkowski to set up the clinching TD run by Rex Burkhead.

SEVENTH RING

Even coming close to Brady's record in Super Bowls will be very challenging after he won No. 7 in his first season in Tampa Bay. He threw two touchdowns to Gronkowski and a third to Antonio Brown as the Bucs routed Mahomes and the Chiefs 31-9.

And yes, Brady helped the Bucs become the first franchise to ever win the Super Bowl on its home field.

GIVE HIM SIX

Brady helped the Patriots put an end to Tebow mania in spectacular fashion. Brady tied a playoff record set first by Daryle Lamonica, then matched by Steve Young by throwing six TD passes in a divisional game Jan. 14, 2012.

He threw the first within the first two minutes to Wes Welker and wound up with all six in the Patriots' first nine drives. Brady threw three passes to Gronkowski. And two of Brady's six TDs came in the final two minutes of the first half.

Brady finished with 363 yards passing in the Patriots' 45-10 victory.

HEY PEYTON

Brady dominated his rivalry with five-time NFL MVP Peyton Manning, winning 11 of their 17 meetings and their first playoff showdown.

With the Patriots and Colts facing off in the AFC championship game on Brady's home turf on Jan. 18, 2004, Brady set the tone from the start. He capped an opening drive with a TD pass to David Givens and had the Patriots up 15-0 at halftime on the way to a 24-14 victory and another Super Bowl berth.

TUCK RULE

Brady gave a preview of postseason success to come on Jan. 19, 2002, in his only playoff game at old Foxboro Stadium with a big assist from a replay review.

Trailing the Oakland Raiders 13-10 with 1:50 left, former Michigan teammate Charles Woodson knocked the ball out of Brady's hand. The Raiders recovered the fumble and celebrated only to have the call reversed on replay by referee Walt Coleman because of the little-known Tuck Rule. The rule was later eliminated.

Brady found David Patten on the next play for a 13-yard pass, setting up Adam Vinatieri's tying field goal. In overtime, Brady completed eight straight passes to position Vinatieri for the winning field goal that launched Brady and the Patriots on the way to their first Super Bowl title.

Trent Jr. tops 30 for 5th straight game as Raptors beat Heat

TORONTO (AP)— Gary Trent Jr. scored 33 points, Pascal Siakam had 16 points and 14 rebounds and the Toronto Raptors won their third straight game, beating the Miami Heat 110-106 on Tuesday night.

Trent matched DeMar DeRozan's franchise record and extended his personal career best by reaching 30 points for the fifth consecutive game.

"He's just full of confidence and he's obviously really hard to guard right now," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said of Trent., who shot 6 for 10 from 3-point range.

VanVleet said Trent, who joined Toronto last season in a trade deadline deal with Portland, was quiet and reserved in his first months with the Raptors but has come out of his shell this season.

"I think we're just seeing who he really is this year," VanVleet said. "We're getting more of his personality. He's talking more, he's stepping up as a leader, he's bringing that competitiveness on both ends of the floor."

Trent said his recent hot stretch has helped boost his confidence.

"When you're getting shots and your coach sees you rolling, believes in you and has confidence in you, he'll call your number," Trent said.

VanVleet scored 21 points, OG Anunoby had 13, Precious Achiuwa 12 and Scottie Barnes 11 as the Raptors won their second straight meeting with Miami. Toronto beat the Heat 124-120 in triple overtime last Saturday.

AP

Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro and Toronto Raptors forward Precious Achiuwa, left, scramble for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, in Toronto.

Bam Adebayo had a season-high 32 points and 11 rebounds, Jimmy Butler had 16 points and 12 assists, and Tyler Herro scored 18 points for the Heat, who lost their third straight.

Warriors 124, Spurs 120

In San Antonio, Jordan Poole had 31 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 17.9 seconds remaining, and the short-handed Golden State Warriors beat the San Antonio Spurs 124-120 on Tuesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Golden State rallied from a 17-point deficit despite being without Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Andrew Wiggins on the second night of a back-to-back.

Damion Lee had 21 points for the Warriors and Damion Lee added 20.

Dejounte Murray led San Antonio with 27 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. Murray had a pair of baskets in the final minute, including a 15-footer that gave the Spurs a 120-119 lead with 40 seconds remaining.

Bucks 112, Wizards 98

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists for his fourth triple-double of the season as Milwaukee handed Washington its sixth straight loss.

The Wizards were playing without star guard Bradley Beal due to a sprained left wrist. The Wizards had announced Monday that Beal would miss at least the rest of this trip, which ends Wednesday at Philadelphia.

Jrue Holiday scored 22 points, Bobby Portis 17, Khris Middleton 13 and Grayson Allen 10 for the Bucks. Kyle Kuzma scored 25, Montrezl Harrell had 20 and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 12 for the Wizards.

Timberwolves 130, Nuggets 115

In Minneapolis, Jarred Vanderbilt scored 18 points against his former team, Taurean Prince had 23 and Minnesota's bench led the way in a victory over Denver.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 24 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, but the Timberwolves' reserves outscored Denver's 68-49. Minnesota's second unit took advantage when Denver star Nikola Jokic rested in the first half to take a commanding lead the Timberwolves wouldn't relinquish.

Jokic finished with 21 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists, but sat the entire fourth quarter with Minnesota's lead ballooning to 30 and the Nuggets playing the first game of a back-to-back. Denver had its five-game winning streak snapped.

Bulls 126, Magic 115

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points, and Zach LaVine added 24, and Chicago beat Orlando.

DeRozan scored 20 of his points in the first half, and then the Bulls survived a frantic rally by the Magic midway through the fourth quarter.

Wendell Carter Jr. scored 24 points to lead the Magic, including 11 in the first quarter.

Pelicans 111, Pistons 101

In Detroit, Brandon Ingram scored 26 points, Jonas Valanciunas added 13 points and 13 rebounds, and New Orleans overcame a 15-point deficit to beat Detroit.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker had 14 of New Orleans' 54 bench points, as the Pelicans ended a four-game losing streak.

The Pistons, who overcame a 15-0 deficit to beat Cleveland on Sunday, led 76-61 with 7:38 left in the third quarter. But with Cade Cunningham sidelined by a hip pointer, they were outscored 50-25 the rest of the way.

Detroit's Jerami Grant had 17 points in his return after missing 24 games with a thumb injury.

Suns 121, Nets 111

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 35 points, Mikal Bridges added a season-high 27 and the NBA-leading Phoenix Suns extended their winning streak to 11 games by beating the Brooklyn Nets 121-111 on Tuesday night.

The Suns (41-9) continued their best start to a season in franchise history and have two double-digit winning streaks this season. They won 18 games in a row from Oct. 30 to Dec. 2.

Bridges scored a season high for a second straight game. The lanky 6-foot-6 forward had 26 points against the Spurs on Sunday and was arguably even better against the Nets, shooting 10 of 14 from the field and adding eight rebounds and four assists.

Analysis: Don't expect many NBA All-Star reserve surprises

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA will reveal the All-Star reserves on Thursday night and, if the league's coaches—they choose the reserves, meaning they're the only voters who matter now—did their homework, surprises should be few and far between.

It's also important to remember that NBA Commissioner Adam Silver will be making some changes to the roster in the coming days. He's the one empowered to make changes when players can't participate because of injury.

And he might be busy with those picks. Kevin Durant is dealing with a knee injury and the game's other captain, LeBron James, is currently dealing with knee swelling.

They were announced last week as starters, along with Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Atlanta's Trae Young, Chicago's DeMar DeRozan, Denver's Nikola Jokic, Memphis' Ja Morant and Golden State teammates Stephen Curry and Andrew Wiggins.

The rosters for the Feb. 20 game in Cleveland almost certainly won't look the rosters for last season's game in Atlanta. Of the 22 players who appeared in that game, it's possible that more than half won't make it to the All-Star Game this time around.

Here's how the 14 reserve picks should go:

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Jarrett Allen and Darius Garland, Cleveland: There are several success stories in the NBA so far this season. Cleveland might sit atop that list and the home crowd would go positively bonkers if these two get into the All-Star Game. Allen is a double-double machine and Garland keeps getting better in just about every category.

James Harden, Brooklyn: His shooting is way down, but is still averaging 23 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds per game. It should be impossible to look at those numbers and scoff at Harden's candidacy.

Tyler Herro, Miami: This may be one of the few decisions that coaches have to make. Miami has emerged as a serious contender to make its second NBA Finals in the last three season. Jimmy Butler is Miami's best player and most important player. But Herro has been a frontrunner for sixth man of the year. It may come down to whether coaches decide Herro being in more games than Butler matters.

Zach LaVine, Chicago: Should have been a starter alongside teammate DeMar DeRozan. An absolute lock to be picked as a reserve, LaVine would become the sixth Bulls player in the post-Michael Jordan era to collect back-to-back All-Star selections alongside Derrick Rose, Luol Deng, Joakim Noah, Pau Gasol and Jimmy Butler.

Jayson Tatum, Boston: Another sure-fire selection, Tatum should be All-Star bound for the third consecutive season. He played in four games last week, scoring at least 36 points in three of them. If coaches needed swaying his monster stats should have ensured that he's packing for Cleveland.

Fred VanVleet, Toronto: Those who are paying attention know what VanVleet has done this season and how vital he's been to whatever chances the Raptors have of a postseason berth. He's playing more than 38 minutes a game, his scoring is on a career-high pace yet again and he has thrived while taking the leadership baton in Toronto that Kyle Lowry carried for so many years.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Devin Booker, Phoenix: The Suns believe he should have been a starter. They're probably not wrong. He's doing his usual—25 points, just over five rebounds, just under five assists per game — and making it look easy. A lock to be a pick.

Luka Doncic, Dallas: Another lock. He's well on his way to becoming the second player in NBA history to average at least 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists per game in each of his first four seasons. The other player to do that was Oscar Robertson.

Draymond Green, Golden State: The only reason why this pick might be in some doubt is because he's missed about one-third of the Warriors' games this season. Coaches don't need to be told about what Green means to the Warriors or how much he can change a game without putting up big numbers. But Green's missed time may make this the spot that winds up going to another deserving candidate like San Antonio's Dejounte Murray.

Rudy Gobert and Donovan Mitchell, Utah: Gobert is on his way to another defensive player of the year award and remains vastly underrated; leaguewide, he was only 29th in All-Star fan balloting. And the Jazz are great when Mitchell—averaging 25.5 points —is at his best. They're 13-2 when he shoots 50% or better in a game this season.

Chris Paul, Phoenix: Bob Cousy was a 13-time All-Star selection. Magic Johnson, Oscar Robertson and Isiah Thomas were 12-time selections. Those four players—all Hall of Famers—are the only true point guards to be chosen for at least a dozen All-Star Games. Paul will join that list Thursday.

Karl-Anthony Towns, Minnesota: The Timberwolves are another of those success stories this season. Anthony Edwards has the perfect combination of skill and swag, D'Angelo Russell is the right quarterback, but Towns is the one who makes it all work. The Wolves have already exceeded last year's win total, are comfortably in the play-in mix right now and certainly aren't out of the race for a top-six spot.

SIS beats Hopwood 2 in interscholastic badminton

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School opened its campaign in the middle school division of the TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League with a 9-6 victory over Hopwood Middle School 2 last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Julie Anne Chavez handed the Geckos a pair of wins to lead SIS's close triumph over Hopwood 2. Chavez played in the girls singles and swept Ye Lynn Ha, 11-4, 11-4. She then partnered with Landon Pudney in the mixed doubles and they had similar straight game victory over Ha and Yong Jun Lin, 11-8, 11-10, for the Geckos second win.

For its third triumph, SIS banked on Jacky Lui in the boys singles play. Liu rallied past Lin as the former took the second and third games, 11-7, 11-6, after dropping the opener, 3-11.

In the other events, Hopwood 2 prevailed in the girls and boys doubles. Lin also played in the doubles and he and Zhi Xiang Jiang needed three games to thwart Peter White and Hunter DeRocher, 11-2, 7-11, 11-3.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Julie Anne Chavez returns to Hopwood Middle School 2's Ye Lynn Ha during their girls singles game in the TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the girls doubles, siblings Ye Sol and Ye Lynn Ha made short work of Lina Tsukagoshi and Aubrey White, 11-6, 11-5, to give Hopwood 2 three points. Three points are awarded to a team that wins in two games and two in a three-game match.

Meanwhile, Hopwood 2 battled back from its opening loss to SIS after topping Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 11-4

The Hilitais took the victory after lording it over in the girls and boys singles and doubles events.

Lin dueled FMS' Adbul Munim in the boys singles and pulled off an 11-6, 9-11, 11-7 win. In the girls singles, Ye Lynn Ha took only two games to dispatch Chrisha Marciano, 11-7, 11-3. Ye Lynn's sister, Ye Sol and Maria Quidato were Hopwood 2's betsn in the girls doubles and they outlasted Sisther Fred and Jaena Laniyo, 7-11, 11-5, 11-3.

The mixed doubles contest between FMS and Hopwood 2 was also decided in three games with the Napu Riders' Wasee Anas and Shaina Malonzo slipping past Ye Lynn and Jiang, 11-8, 8-11, 11-10 for FMS' lone victory in the pairing. In the boys doubles, Lin and Guan Jun Hao edged Anas and Munim, 11-10, 11-8.

With Hopwood 2 nearly sweeping FMS, it earned a 17-13 record in the team standings in Bracket A for second place behind Hopwood 1 (23-7). SIS holds a 14-16 win-loss mark, while FMS has an 8-22 card. Each team in Bracket A has one game left in the round-robin regular season. Bracket B matches, on the other hand, have yet to kick off and are scheduled to take place on Feb. 19 with the confirmed number of teams to be announced next week.

PIC Saipan brings back Grid Iron Super Bowl

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is proud to announce the big time comeback of its Grid Iron Super Bowl event. Join us as we cheer and watch as the Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals duel for the championship in Super Bowl LVI. Are you not excited about this year's very famous Super Vowl halftime show yet? "The Call" featuring Eminem, Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Mary J. Blige, and Kendrick Lamar.

PIC will be opening up its doors at 7am with continental breakfast at 8am. The Magellan restaurant is ready to serve everyone for lunch from 10:30am to 1:30pm Magellan lunch buffet. Of course, what is Super Bowl without drinks? Free-flow of Miller Lite Beer and Pepsi products from Pacific Trading Co. will be served throughout the event!

Over $500 worth of raffle prizes will be given to our lucky raffle winners and of course, the return of Grid Iron Magical Squares. It's $100 per quarter for this amazing game. Just $40 to enter for adults and $20 for kids ages 4-11 years old. Tickets available at PIC Saipan Front Desk or call 670-2375170 for more details. ***(PR)***

SBL

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baseball tryouts for the Mini Games was unprecedented as in the past the SBL selected national players based on their performance in the most recent baseball season.

"Like what I've said with these guys here, everything we've done thus far has been brand new to everybody. We never held tryouts before as you were selected based on your performance and statistics [from the previous season]. But out here you really have to come out and perform. It's been hard on the players. They've seen a lot of their very close friends and family members get cut and I know it's been difficult for a lot of these guys. It's been very difficult on the coaches and the manager as well," he said.

Santos said he couldn't ask more for all the players who tried out for the Mini Games and those include all of the original 56 that answered the call in November to join the national pool.

"First and foremost, thank you to everybody who came out and tried out. We're down to 25. We're only allowed 20 so there'll be a cut of five more. We're going get the best 20 that we can get."

With 136 expected players, baseball will be played at the aforementioned Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Baseball Field, which has a planned facelift coming for months.

Aside from the CNMI, teams that will compete in the baseball competition of the Mini Games include American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia Fiji, Guam, Palau, and the Solomon Islands. Australia and New Zealand may also send their baseball teams to the quadrennial event, but as of January 2022, both have yet to submit their numeral entries to the Mini Games.

Aside from baseball, the other sports that will see action in next year Mini Games are athletics, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, outrigger canoe or va'a, tennis, triathlon, and weightlifting.

CUKI

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a photo finish! Then in heat 2, I lead from start to finish. But both he and Champi Villa Canas were only a couple seconds behind and pressured me the entire race," said Alvarez.

As for the new layout of the Cowtown Race Track, the owner and instructor at Trench Tech Gym said they added to the degree of difficulty to the course and is a welcome addition to the new season.

"The new obstacles made it challenging for all but it was a good advancement for all the riders because everyone improved from last year! We built a couple more berms (embankment for turning) and built up a few of the jumps and made them higher and slightly farther. The biggest obstacle was the new rocket launcher jump. In 2021 we jumped the rocket launcher down into the valley below. For 2022 we added an additional jump in from the new rocket launcher and now jump from that first jump and land on the down side of the original rocket launcher. Makes for much bigger airtime! Fans really enjoyed that new section which is right at the main entrance to the raceway park!"

Apart from winning, the MRA vice president said what really was important was all MRA members had a great time last Sunday ushering the first race of the year at the old racetrack.

"We had a great nice, hot, and sunny day of racing! All the kids and of course the adults were all stoked and happy to be back racing! It was a good turnout overall with both participants and fans," said Alvarez, who rode 2022 Kawasaki KX450F sponsored by Cycles Plus Guam.

He was the first to admit that the first day of racing was not all a bed of rose though.

"The only downfall if you will of the race was that it was very dry and very dusty! And this causes havoc for the riders and fans because it can be very blinding and suffocating too. MRA is looking for water trucks to donate water or even possible get grants from the government to procure our own water truck altogether. So yeah, we are in urgent need of water to help settle down the dust before each race."

Finishing second to Alvarez was Celis with 44 points, while Villacanes completed the Top 3 with his 36 points. Melvin Cepeda (36 points), Julian Salalila (32 points), Glen Pangelinan (30 points), MRA president Charles Cepeda (27 points) and Ray Yumul (27 points) also competed in the Veterans Class.

In the Mini I Class, Stanley Iakopo Jr. ruled the roost with 50 points followed by Jonoah Santos with 44 points. Harley Susulin and Te'Ohnn Pua completed the cast for third and fourth pace with 40 points and 36 points, respectively.

Vicente Palacios, meanwhile, also swept the Mini II Class with 50 points. Devin Yumul finished runner-up twice for 44 points, while Mari Alvarez was third with 38 points. Leighton Palacios (36 points), Matthew Guerrero (34 points), T.J. Ferrer (28 points), Calix Cruz (28 points), and Kale Macaranas (28 points) also raced in the division.

Results of the Big Boy ATV, Peewee ATV, Mini ATV, and intermediate will be reported in tomorrow's issue of Saipan Tribune.

CNMI

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(73 kg), Joseph "Joey" Tudela (81 kg), Emmanuel Aquino (81 kg), Leonardo "Leo" Apelo (89 kg), Angel San Nicolas (96 kg), David Barnhouse (102 kg), Joey Colisao (109 kg), and Jason Limes (109+ kg). The women's team is made up of Pipit Ball (64 kg), Cheyanne Manuel (71 kg), Antonette Labausa (76 kg), Riella Ichiuo (81 kg), and Raegine Camacho (87 kg).

Barnhouse and Labausa will serve as playing coaches for the men's and women's teams, respectively.

Davis said it took a lot of time and effort for the federation and the coaches to select the 15 men and women that eventually made up the national team for the Mini Games.

"We used a number of factors in athlete selection, primarily the national coaches' recommendation, then the board of directors approved the selection based on training, federation membership, participation, ADAMS registration, and other factors."

ADAMS is the acronym for Anti-Doping Administration & Management System.

The CNMI Weightlifting president added that their athletes continue to train hard sans an actual facility to prepare for the Mini Games.

"Though we don't have a permanent home, the national team members continue to train hard, Currently, the team is training in the Pacific Mini Games warehouse until the arrival of equipment needed for the Games," he said.

A total of 187 athletes are expected to compete in weightlifting, second-most in the Mini Games behind outrigger canoe or va'a.

Aside from the CNMI, the other nations that will send athletes for the sport are American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Futuna.

Australia and New Zealand may also send their baseball teams to the quadrennial event, but as of January 2022, both have yet to submit their numeral entries to the Mini Games.

MARK RABAGO

CNMI Weightlifting Federation president John Davis, right, joins women's 81-kg gold medalist Raegine A. Camacho, second from left, Latte Built Center owner Derek Cutting, right, and silver medalist Danica C. Guevarra during the awards ceremony of the 2020 Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Tom Brady retires after 22 seasons, 7 Super Bowl titles

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SBL names Mini Games national team

MARK RABAGO

Seventeen of the 25 players that make up the CNMI National Baseball Team for the Northern Marianas Mini Games 2022 pose for a group photo with manager Manny Sablan, right standings, and coach Derron Flores, third from left standing, at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI Baseball National Team tasked to win the gold medal in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 has been named.

Minus competition the past couple of seasons due to COVID-19 and damage to the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field brought about by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, the Saipan Baseball League held tryouts starting last November and from nearly 60 they cut it down to 36 last December.

Just two weeks ago, SBL officially named the 25-man national team that includes five alternates and they are the following: Pat Alepuyo, Dennis Cabrera, Jerald Cabrera, Brian Camacho, Diego Camacho, Juan Iguel, Lamarc Iguel, Ben Jones Jr., Josh Jones, Byron Kaipat, A.J. Lizama, Jose Lizama, Keoni Lizama, Poland Masaharu Jr., Franko Nakamura, Tyrone Omar, John Peter Sablan, Nokki Saralu, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Nate Smith, Jordan Suel, Anthony Tenorio, Patrick Tenorio, and Shane Yamada.

» 25-man roster includes 5 alternates

SBL president Jay Santos said while he's glad that manager Manny Sablan and coaches Derron Flores and Gary Cruz now have their team, he feels bad for the players that didn't made the cut.

"I'm not happy with the 25 because I hate having to cut so many good players. There's a lot of very committed ballplayers who really wanted to make this squad and I want to thank them for their hard work," he said.

Santos added that the

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Cuki cracks the whip in Veterans Class

LAO ZHANG

Veterans Class winner Cuki Alvarez jumps the "new rocket launcher" of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO
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Cuki Alvarez may have lost to his son, Shane, in the Expert Class but got a consolation of sorts by winning the Veterans Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 51-year-old boat captain nipped defending series champion and practice partner Dave Celis in both heats to earn 50 points for a good debut in the 2022 season of the division.

"It was a good start for sure. My good buddy and teammate Dave Celis beat me last year and earned and gained the No. 1 red plate in that division. So I was able to establish my dominance early on. But it definitely wasn't easy. I edged out Dave only by a hair in heat 1! He led for like five laps and I was able to beat him to the finish line. It was

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'CNMI will be well represented in weightlifting'

By MARK RABAGO
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CNMI Weightlifting president John Davis is not one to make predictions on how many medals the CNMI National Weightlifting Team will win in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

However, the former Marianas High School vice principal assured that everyone in the team will do their best to make their home islands proud, especially since the quadrennial event will be held for the first time in the CNMI.

"Culturally and traditionally Olympic weightlifting isn't one of the primary sports in the CNMI. We have a young and inexperienced team. Yet, we have won medals at every contest we have entered since 2017. I'm not going to make any predictions concerning our efforts except to say the CNMI will be well represented at the Games," he said.

Last week, CNMI Weightlifting named the men's and women's teams to the Mini Games. The men's team is composed of Raymond Santos (55 kg), Leowell Cristobal (67 kg), Joshua Meneses

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